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Alega National (impelai- *-s= a seem ton by # come for the first of

Italian budget set to pass

iome (R) — Italy's unpopular 1995 budget was set to complete is rocky ride through parliament's lower house on schedule this seekend but tensions remained high within Prime Minister Salvio iterhisconi's coalition on Saturday. A parliamentary session had to be halted for 10 minutes on Friday night after rightist National Alliance deputies and their nominal allies from the federalist forthern League almost came to blows. The National Alliance, he Northern League and Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia are the hree main coalition parties. Deputies from the two sides threw ager missiles and coins at each other after the League joined orces with the opposition to vote down a National Alliance budget discovery of a lutilians living abroad. Leading politicians from the two parties a dearlier traded insults with National Alliance leader Gianfranco fin accusing the League of behaving like "goats." Luigi Rossi, eague spokesman in the chamber of deputies (lower house), sponded by branding the National Alliance "fascist pigs."



Downed Serb plane crashes into apartment

ZAGREB (AFP) — A Croatian Serb plane crashed into an apartment block Saturday after being shot down on a bombing run over Cazin in the north of the Bihac pocket in northwestern Bosnia, a U.N. military observer told AFP. At least nine people were killed in the bombing raid, the source said. Five storeys of the building where it crashed were also in flames, the sources added. The source named the dead pilot as Novic Boro, 30, saying the body was badly smashed up by the impact. The plane had been bombing mainly Muslim Bosnian government positions, U.N. officials said here. A U.N. Protection Force spokesman said they did not know if the plane was hit by Bosnian fire but said it was one of two that flew lower over the town, in the north of the government-held Bihac enclave, bombing a "very populated" region. The number of casualties from the air raid, launched on Cazin and the U.N.-protected area of Bihac town at around 3:50 p.m. (1450 GMT), could be substantial, they noted.

See related story inside.

Volume 19 Number 5772

AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 16, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Palestinians erupt in anger ifter bloody clashes in Gaza

sraeli troops kill 3 as Arafat and Hamas leaders ek means to avert civil war and restore calm

bined agency dispatches

RAGED PALESTI-NS stormed an Israeli ckpoint, clashed with ps and taunted their own ce as "collaborators" on irday as anger swept the a Strip and West Bank the killing of 13 people previous day. Two more inians died overnight. uslim fundamentalists ed their fury at Palestine onal Authority (PNA)

er Yasser Arafat but Scientister Gaza bloodshed, as the DNA from took steps to defuse

dinosauri, aci troops, meanwhile, t dead at least four stinians as they fired at Arafat protesters in the a Strip and West Bank. Gaza City, around 2,000 mentalists took to the tets, shouting death ets and insults against

> Arafat your destiny is ter to that of Sadat," they sted, in a reference to the Egyptian President down by Islamic militants destining police stuck to

> it and stayou off the sters carrying a huge Arafat and called him and a "servant" to

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pes for

rusalem

But the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas vowed to take revenge against Israelis, rather than the police whom

it dismissed as agents of the Israeli army. In a statement faxed to news agencies, Hamas called on its fighters and "all militants of the different Palesti-

nian factions" to "strike at

the occupation army and set-

It would be retaliation for the "massacre perpetrated by the occupation army, through its agents."

In an effort to ease the tension after the unprecedented violence, the PNA launched a public inquiry and released 50 Islamic militants on Saturday.

The authority also said it would compensate the families of those killed in Friday's clashes as well as Palestinians

who had property damaged.
"I hope this will help improve the atmosphere," said Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian minister of international cooperation after the authority's weekly meeting.

together for mediation without immediate success. One Hamas leader, Mahmoud Al Zahar, said He said a judicial committhat his group would impose conditions on its participation

tee made up of three judges

as well as a fact-finding com-

mittee "from different poli-

tical views" would investigate

Behind the scenes,

attempts were underway to

bring Hamas and the PNA

how the violence erupted.

in the fact-finding committee investigating the clashes. Dr. Zahar said Hamas had sent its own proposals to Mr. Arafat, who he charged was "personally responsible" for the Palestinian deaths.

"We are looking for the establishment of a neutral committee to investigate within a short time, a fixed date," he said. The committee members would have to be "acceptable to both sides and everybody should respond to its decision."

An Israeli Arab deputy, Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, said Mr. Arafat had agreed in principle to meet Hamas leaders and issue a joint appeal for calm to Palesti-

Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians in separate clashes with stone-throwing demonstrators, hospital officials said.

In the West Bank town of

(Continued on page 12)

A Palestinian youth kicks a tear-gas grenade Beeing during beavy clashes that erupted in shot by Israeli borderguards while others are East Jerusalem on Saturday (AFP photo) Jordan decries bloodshed,

RCAN (AP) — Pope Paul II, receiving a's first ambassador # Holy See, on Saturinteracted the Varican's Pace on international itees for Jerusalem's

Vancan established diplomatic ties with a in March, shortly It did the same with as part of its drive voice in the Middle

Pope has repeatedly ssed his concern for ziem's future, and thorny issue will be led with later in the of peace talks that

TV prose arding "that part of TV prose by considered sacred, Holy See) asks for rational guarantees preservation of the menstics which make the in the world ly places, the life of ununities, their rewe quarters, and lly, free access for all rs," Pope John Paul the diplomat. om Bilbersi, during a atial-presentation

> Pope acknowledged houlties of reaching ent on Jerusalem. xisely because the City constitutes a heritage for Jews, its very stones and nents are both prompeace and a symbol differences," he

Pope made no direct boold sat no me involving Muslim in the Gaza Strip. Vatican's newspap-Deservatore Romaressed worry for the repercussions" on gotiations.

urges Palestinians to unite

U.S., Egypt see need for aid; opponents of peace assail Arafat for 'massacre'

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Saturday condemned the bloodshed and killings Friday in the Gaza Strip in clashes between the Palestinian National Authority and Islamists.

A government spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Jordanian government was following up the situation in Gaza with "extreme concern." The spokesman voiced "dismay, pain and sadness over the loss of lives."

"It expresses its deep sorrow and grief over the blood that was shed... especially in these delicate and complicated circumstances which the Palestinian territories are passing through," said the

spokesman. The spokesman offered condolences to the Palestinian people in general, and families of those killed in particular, wished speedy recovery to the wounded and urged Palestinians in the selfrule area to unify their ranks.

peace process issued a statement condemning Friday's incidents in Gaza.

"The Jordanian parties opposing the surrender and normalisation agreements denounce the massacre committed by the police forces of (the Palestinian National) Authority in Gaza Strip Friday Nov. 18, 1994," said the statement, a copy of which was faxed to the Jordan

The parties said "the massacre" was a result of the Palestinian authority's commitments to the American administration and the Israeli government to implement the Oslo-Cairo agreements."

The opposition eight said they consider "this criminal behaviour as part of the criminal campaign aiming to liquidate the Palestinian national resistance struggling for freedom and independence.'

The parties called on the Palestinian people to avoid

Eight Jordanian parties in-fighting and to unify their opposing the Middle East. ranks in resisting the Israeli occupation and those serving

> They also demanded the setting up of a panel to investigate Friday's violence.

The U.S. State Department said the bloody clashes between Palestinian police and Muslim hardliners in the Gaza Strip are a warning that funds must quickly be funnelled to the newly autonomous

Confrontations that left 15 dead and more than 200 wounded send "a warning signal that more must be done to bring to the Palestinian people concrete benefits of peace," said State Depart-ment spokesman David John-

Mr. Johnson urged donor nations to fulfill their obligations. Some have complained about the lack of information available about how funds "The Palestine Liberation

(Continued on page 12)



Armed Palestinian demonstrators hold rocket lanuchers and Kalashnikovs after burning tyres on Saturday in 'Ain Al Hilweh, Leba-

non's largest Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon, in mourning for the victims of the Gaza clashes (AFP photo)

rejects Israeli

Offer
NICOSIA (Agencies) — The
Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Saturday rejected an Israeli offer to help deal with Islamic militants, after the Gaza clashes which left 15 people dead and 200

wounded. "This is ruled out. We did not turn to the Istaclis," Jibril Rajjub, Palestinian security chief for the Jericho selfrule enclave, told the Arabic service of Radio Monte Carlo

monitored in Cyprus. He also rejected another offer, again from Israeli Housing Minister Benyamin Ben Eliezer, to allow Palestinian reinforcements into the autonomous Gaza Strip from Arab countries.

"We do not need such forces. We are not at war against our people, this will definitely not happen," he Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres said he hoped the PNA's forces would succeed to get the militants under control, but that Israel would not interfere.
"Within every people, there is room for different

opinions. There is no room for rival authorities," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio. 'That's a real disaster.' Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said his country did not want to see fight-

ing between Palestinians, and blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the unprecedented clashes in Gaza. "We are deeply saddened by the bloodshed and acts of

violence. Israel has no interest in seeing its Palestinian neighbours plunge into inter-nal conflict," Mr. Sarid told Israel Television. Mr. Sarid offered the

Israeli government's "sympathy to the families of vic-Fundamentalists opposed

to the autonomy accord were responsible for the violence,



Jordan seeks to set democratic model, King tells political parties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that Jordan seeks to set an example to others in the Arab World in exercising democracy and political pluralism and in respecting human rights.

"Jordan is determined to deal with all matters in order to safeguard these principles and practices so that citizens become reassured about the present and the future and so that Jordan can confront and overcome all challenges and dangers," King Hussein said at a meeting held at the Royal Court with secretarygeneral and representatives

"We are determined toachieve a new renaissance for this nation that would outweigh the suffering of the Arab people in the absence of these principles which will reassert and uphold and safe-

"Ours is a nation that has always sought moderation,

responding to the call of logic

and intellect and acting from

past experiences and hardships and challanges over long years," the King

Referring to the Middle East peace process, the King said Jordan had always respected the wishes and interests of the Arab brothers who opted to follow their own paths. "In Jordan, we have chosen ours, backed in our endeavours by the major-

of eight Jordanian political

guard," King Hussein said.

cooperation, the King said he

aspirations.

would always welcome parties' views on different topics. The King said that he took pride in belonging to the Arab Nation and he was de-

termined to help the Jorda-

nian people to fullfil their Talal Ramahi, secretary general of the Unionists Party, delivered an address on behalf of his colleagues pledging to work under the

King's wise leadership.

ity of people who will work todance. serve the future genera-Saying that the coming tions," the King said. stage posed various chal-lenges, Mr. Ramahi said that Urging the heads of the parties to pursue the path of the political parties pledge to support all King Hussein's

> homeland. The political parties represented at the meeting were: Al Ahd, Progress and Justice, Al Yakaza, Al Mustaabal, Al Jamaheer, the Unionists, Wa'd, and the Liber-

endeavours in service of the

political parties continue to

support the King's drive to

enhance the principles of political pluralism, democra-

cy and human rights.
Referring to the Jordan-

Israel peace treaty, Mr.

Ramahi said that the Jorda-

nian people were united be-

hind their leadership and

hoping to deal with the com-

ing stage with full confidence

under King Hussein's gui-

Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and the King's advisers attended the meeting.

Majali begins visit to Qatar seeking to consolidate relations

Mr. Ramahi said that the

DOHA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Saturday arrived in Doha on an official visit to Qatar at an invitation by Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani.

Dr. Majali, who is accompanied on the visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, will meet with senior Qatari officials for talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations. regional and international developments as well as the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Dr. Majali was received at Doha airport by Sheikh Hamad, several Qatari royal court officials, speaker of the Qatari Shura assembly, several ministers and the Jordanian ambassador to

Dr. Majali was given a red carpet reception with full Dr. Majali is to meet

Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani and



senior officials.

In Amman, Information Minister Jawad Anani said "through bilateral cooperation (with Qatar) Jordan is keen on promoting relations with all Arab countries, notabiy the six-member" Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "We want to build new

mutual respect," said Dr. Anani in remarks to the press. He stressed the need for Arabs to unite in solidarity in the face of the challenges inherent in the Arab-Israeli peace era." Jordan's relations with

solid relations based on

Qatar, a GCC member, have greatly improved over the past two years.

But uneasiness has persisted with other Gulf states except for Oman which maintained good relations with the Kingdom - because of Jordan's perceived pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis which followed Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

His Majesty King Hussein visited Doha on March 23, and high-ranking Qatari officilas have travelled to Amman several times over the past two years.

It was Dr. Majali's first visit to an Arab Gulf state since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 ending a 46-year state of war and starting full norma-

Hospitals deny cholera outbreak in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Hospitals on Saturday denied a report that two Palestinian children in Arab East Jerusalem had contracted cholera, three weeks after the disease first appeared in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Bikur Holim hospital said the report from hospital officials was a mistake and that the children were suffering from intestinal problems. The officials had said the

two Palestinians were taken to Bikur Holim in Jerusalem's western sector. The most seriously ill child was



On the occasion of King Hussein's birthday

& the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan & Israel

SOON TO BE OPENED:

WADI AL SALAM TRAVEL AND TOURISM Air flight bookings to all countries in the world, tourist picnics inside Jordan and outside, hotel bookings, Al OMRA travelling arrangements.

AL SHMEISANI Abdul Hamid Sharaf Street, Tareq Centre building, third floor, office no. 17.

Qaboos calls for interpretation of Islam to conform to times

MUSCAT (AP) — Sultan Qaboos has condemned Islamic fundamentalism, which he attributed to "stagnation" of the laws of the 7th century faith, and called for fresh interpretations of these laws

to suit modern-day life.
In a televised addresses on the Sultanate's national day, Sultan Qaboos urged his people to close the door to religious fanaticism and the violence it has spawned.

Sultan Qaboos, who has ruled for 24 years, called on Oman's two million people to ensure that "alien ideas, masquerading as beneficial promises" do not jeopardise Oman's security and stability.

His call for new interpretation of Islamic principles, or Ijttihad, is a thorny one and was an apparent attempt to counter Muslim extremists who have become active in this country on the southeastern tip of the Arabian Penin-

Last week, an unspecified number of some 200 Omani Muslim fundamentalists rounded up earlier in the year were sentenced to death on charges of conspiracy to rouse sedition, Sultan Qaboos commuted the sent-

Officially, few details of the case have emerged. But diplomats say the men were part of the Islamic fundamentalist tide sweeping

several Arab countries, seeking to establish Islamic states. Sultan Qaboos declared that extremism, fantacism and factionalism were "hateful poisonous plants in the soil of our country which will

nto be allowed to flourish.
"Obstinacy in religious understanding leads to back-wardness in Muslims, the prevalence of violence and intolerance," he said.

"This is far removed from. Islam, which rejects exaggeration and bigotry, because it is the religion of liberality." Fundamentalists insist on

segregating the sexes and that women must be veiled from head to toe, while rejecting modern banking systems, because they provide interest which is considered usury. But, Sultan Qaboos said,

the principles and laws of Islam were imparted by God through the Koran without expressing them in detail. Interpreting them, he said. "might differ from place to

"He did so to enable us to interpret the law of Islam according to its basic principls and the requirements of the Sultan noted.

He stressed that when Islam spread after the faith was founded by the Prophet Mohammad, new questions arose requiring Islamic answers and people then "resorted to interpretation in an

NEWS IN BRIEF

Benvenisti accuses Olmert of provoking tension

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) --- A Jerusalem coun-

cillor announced his resignation Friday, accusing the Israel

right-wing mayor, Ehud Olmert, of stirring up tension between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City. Meron Benvenisti, a Labour Party councillor, told Olmert in a

letter published Friday "instead of the moderating influence required for your duties, you stir up tension with the Palestinians who make up a third of the city's population." Mr. Benvenisti, a sociologist, condemned Mr. Olmert for campaigning against Orient House, the Palestinian head-

quarters in Jerusalem, and for opposing any expansion of the city's Arab districts. "The mayor is caught up in his outdated, ultra-nationalist ideas," Mr. Benvenisti told

AFP. "He does not take any notice of criticism and I have

given up any hope of changing anything in the municipal-

ity," he added. Mr. Olmert, a right-wing opposition Likud

party deputy, was elected to his Jerusalem post a year ago. He has since taken a hardline stance on the closure of

Orient House and against a visit to Jerusalem by Yasser

ago, proposed the creation of separate municipal authorities for Jewish and Arch distinct Arafat. Mr. Benvenisti, who was deputy mayor 15 years

dropped. He has written a series of books and articles on

Eritrean refugees begin to return home

GENEVA (AFP) - The office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday it had

begun the long process of repatriating refugees from Entrea currently living in Sudan. UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshal said a third of the 420,000 refugees con-

cerned would be resettled by mid-1995. A first batch of 297

had returned and 1,500 would cross the border each week.

marriages. Avatollah Mohammad Yazdi said in a Friday

prayers sermon in Tehran that this applied to women who had not initiated the divorce and had conducted themselves

properly during their marriages. He said that while around 98 per cent of marriages in Iran were happy, he knew of cases where well-off men had left their wives for younger

women. "I know of... couples who have gone through

poverty and hardship togerther and gradually their lot

improves... now the man has got a desk job or come into some money, and God forbid, made the acquaintance of a

young woman at work or outside, and he wishes to divorce

his wife and marry the other woman," Ayatollah Yazdi

said. "In such cases, if a man wishes of divorce his wife, the

court can, or must, investigate the amount of wealth which

they have accumulated during the period ... their marriage

to the time of divorce, and that, at the discretion of the

now because of economic problems.

for Jewish and Arab districts but his plan was

attempt to find suitable

These and proved that Islamic law was capable of dealing with any situation. But "unfortunately the backwardness of Muslims in recent times has rendered them incapable of making use of their inheritance," Sultan Qaboos said.

"It's really sad that this stagnation resulted in a weakness of the Muslim Nation, which in recent years, has brought about fantacism based on a lack of knowledge among the Muslim youth about the correct facts of their religion," he said.
"This was exploited by

some to perpetrate violence and propagate cases of differ-ence that led to discord and hatred.' He noted: "In order that

Muslims should not remain backward, while others advance, they are required by the law of Islam to... renew and revise their thinking so they can apply the right solutions to modern problems that face the Islamic com-

Sultan Qaboos also moved to streamline Islamic education in Oman and announced the establishment of a new college of Islamic jurisprudence and law in Muscat, the capital, and a higher institution for senior Muslim theologians.

Sudan prepares studies to refute rights claims

KHARTOUM (AFP) Sudanese authorities are preparing fact-finding studies aimed at refuting reports of torture and other abuses to present to human rights delegations due to visit the country, a news report said Saturday.

Jutice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddo's higher council for human rights called on government agencies to prepare studies on displaced people, refugees, women's rights, homelessness, and amnesty decrees, the daily Al Sudan Al Hadeith said.

The reports will be prepared ahead of the visits by delegates from Amnesty International and the develop-ment aid organisation of African-Pacific-Caribbean and European Union coun-

The studies will also cover what Mr. Shiddo termed earlier "methodical mistakes" in accounts of alleged human rights rapporteur Gaspar Biro and Amnesty.

Associated Press photographer Adel Hanna, Reuters photographer Ahmad Jadaliah and Reuters TV cameraman Shamseddin Oudeh, all of them Palesti-

MAJALI IN DOHA: Prime Minister Abdul Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben

Salam Majali, who began a visit to Qatar on Khalifa Al Thani and senior officials (see page

International journalists assail

Palestinian police behaviour

Saturday, is received upon arrival in Doha by one) (Petra photo)

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An internation-

al organisation that seeks to

protect journalists is ques-tioning Palestinian police riot control methods and open-

fire regulations following the shooting of journalists in Gaza on friday.

In a letter sent to Palestinian National Authority

nian National Authority

(PNA) Chairman Yasser

Arafat, the New York based

Committee to Protect Jour-

nalists (CPJ) expressed its

dismay that three journalits

were shot and injured during

confrontations between

Palestinian police and Islamic

The CPJ called for an "in-

dependent investigation of

these shootings" and urged the PNA to reevaluate police

Violent clashes and street

fighting erupted following

Friday prayers in Gaza, leav-

ing 13 dead and more than 200 wounded when Palesti-

nian police fired on stone-

throwing demonstrators

accusing the PNA of serving

Israeli interests. Two others

.The unrest died down with

nightfall, aithough Saturday

saw another death in Gaza

and further injuries in Gaza

and the West Bank during

to Mr. Arafat, a copy of

which was received by the

Jordan Times Saturday, the

three reporters wounded in

the melee were identified as

According to the letter sent

died overnight.

riot control methods.'

singled out the journalists and fired at them intentionally as they clashed with 6,000 Muslim worshippers and Islamic militants outside a mos-Palestinian security officers also roughed up two Amer-

ican photographers and took their equipment, said Heidi Levine, a free-lance photographer on assignemnt for the AP. Ms. Levine said a Palestinian police officer fired three shots next to the head of

photographer Alexandra Vakaian and threatened to kill her if she did not leave immediately. Later, an enraged crowd turned on the two photo-

graphers and beat them. "One man held a huge rock to my head and threatened to smash it if I didn't leave: " said Ms.

The crowd took one of Ms. Levine's cameras and film. Ms. Vakaian, who works for the Contact photo agency, otherwise their injuries were superficial, Ms. Levine said. The CPJ said "local

sources" had informed it that Mr. Oudeh was hospitalised in Israel having been shot in

'Evewitness accounts suggest that both police and de-

Itim, the Israeli news agency, said the Palestinian police

The CPJ, a non-partisan committee of journalists dewards the press.

The organisation urged Mr. Arafat to order an independent investigation of the shootings and "see to it that those responsible are brought to justice.

In September, alarmed by the arrest in Gaza of a Palestinian journalist, Mohammad Al Ejla, the CPJ also wrote to Mr. Arafat expressing its fear of restrictions impeding the freedom of the press in Gaza and the

the shoulder and also confirmed that the other two photojournalists had also received gunshot wounds.

monstrators attempted to stop photographers from covering the confrontations," the letter said, adding that the committee was "still investigating reports that several other journalists were beaten during the disturb-

dicated to the defence of journalists' rights throughout the world, condemned the behaviour of the police to-"The shooting of reporters

covering demonstrations is bound to have a chilling effect on coverage of events in Gaza. We believe today's (Friday) tragic events have clearly demonstrated that the police's open-fire regulations and riot control methods must be revised," it said.

West Bank. Mr. Eila was

Relief workers keep heads down in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) -Relief workers in Somalia are keeping their heads down as the last 15,000 U.N. troops withdraw from this lawless country on the Horn of Afri-

The aid workers accuse the peacekeepers, who will all be gone by March 31, of doing virtually nothing to protect

The U.N. troops are "hunkered down behind barbed wire and concrete, packing their toys, and protecting themselves against marauding bandits," charged Nancy Smith, Somali director of the British agency Oxfam, in an interview this week.

The United Nations counter-charges that the agencies are operating with "missionary zeal" and misleading public opinion.
U.N. Special Representa-

tive Victor Gbeho of Ghana said in an interview this week that U.N. troops were still protecting relief convoys, but were limiting their trips to 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Mogadishu so they could return the same day. In 1992, some 150 international relief agencies were operating in Somalia following the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January of 1991 and as drought threatened famine amid clan warfare.

Now, about 20 remain, and most are planning to with-draw from the flashpoint of Mogadishu as the last troops go, to base themselves in calmer areas of the country or in Nairobi, the capital of neighbouring Kenya, while they watch what happens.

As they withdraw, meanwhile, their armed employees tend to hold them hostage, demanding huge severance pay, a habit that Ms. Smith denounced as a "feeding frenzy."

She said Oxfam would pull out of the southern port city of Kismayo before Indian U.N. troops withdraw from there at the end of the

"We're disposed to remain (in Somalia)," Ms. Smith said, but "not if we need a huge amount of security, and are surrounded by guns. Our (security) costs have to de-

Oxfam workers, like all expatriates, travel in Moga-

dishu only with at least or armed guard in the car a other armed guards in a following vehicle to ward of independent kidnappers whe

major faction.
The armed guards generally paid \$150 per month each, and security costs are often around 10pg cent of an agency's budge

relief workers say.

The agencies depend for supplies now on U.N. phine shuttling in and out, and of flights organised by the Bampean Union, but Ms. Smit pointed out that the UN flights would halt at the into of March and that the Rin pean flights would not total
down if the departure of the
U.N. sparked fighting around
the airport, as is widely as pected.

Karl Weis, heading a joint operation by the Genna branches of the Roma Catholic and Protestant agencies Caritas and Diakonic said his staff had been open. ing in "red areas" for the has two years, but that the U.N troops "only supply securi on their checkpoints and their compound."

Jean Fabrice Pietri, Somal director of International Ac tion Against Famine, con-M Rawe plained that he received, a political or military information from the United Nation to allow him to evaluate dan gers to his staff.

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He also said reports from U.N. officials on Monday that at least 100 people were feared in flooding in the south of the country was gross exaggeration, saying his staff in the area reported in deaths.

The floods were a regula occurrence, he said, though: little harsher than usual th

Mr. Gbeho said mean while, in an interview the non-governmental organis-tions (NGOs) were "mislead ing opinion. The U.N. troops had

established corridors in ' hostile and violent society, he said, and were continu to escort relief every day t to the 150-kilometre limit. "The NGOs want esco

all the time," he said. "The are notorious for not having programmes ahead of the and they like to operation areas where we don't gu"

Son's graduation fuels Assad succession rumour

DAMASCUS (AP) -Bashar Assad's graduation as a captain commanding a tank regiment has fueled speculation that his father, President Hafez Al Assad, is grooming his son to succeed him.

Predictions about Bashar as a possible heir apparent began in January following the sudden death of his elder brother Basil in a car acci-

Speculation surrounding the 29-year-old Bashar was remforced Thursday when he graduated from the military academy in the city of Homs. Bashar joined the academy

shortly after his brother's death, cutting short his training in England as an ophthalmologist to keep close to his bereaved father. Defence Minister Mustafa

Tlas, addressing the graduating cadets, extended a special welcome to Bashar, saying wecome, o comrade in arms, as a dear brother and the son of dear brother." At an earlier ceremony

following Basil's death, General Tlas had told President Assad that Bashar, 'would be a good successor." "I see in the eyes of your son, Dr. Bashar Assa, the will, determination and abity to raise the banner the Basil had raised," Gen. Tis told the president.

Although Basil was new officially designated as Pres dent Assad's heir appareat he had been considered leading candidate to succe the president or at less assume a prominent position once his father passed from the scene.

Bashar, like Basil, be shown little taste for political But aithough his father never designated him as I successor, there have been increasing signs that he has been groomed for high off

He is already heading most of the committees his lat brother had presided over mainly those relating 10 sports activities. He also car ries out other special duties

assigned to him by his father President Assad, 64, is power since a bloodless comp 24 years ago, has shown is signs of relinquishing out for the time being but the succession is still a key issue in Syrian politics.

Anatolia is hushed in face of security

The refugees fled the years of fighting which finally ended with Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia in May 1993. The Asmara government had put off any repatriation until BATMAN (AFP) — The silence in southeastern Turkey, where government forces are Cieric wants Iran divorce law changed battling a Kurdish separatist insurrection, is overwhelm-NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's judiciary said Friday ing, as residents have learned that some women being divorced by their husbands were entitled to up to half the wealth accumulated during the to respect the dreaded, in-

timidating presence of plain ciothes Turkish policemen. Ali, a 40 year-old civil servant and a Kurd, did agree to

talk here with two visiting journalists — but only after eyeballing them for 10 minutes to make sure they themselves were not being talked by police. "I have to be suspicious of

everyone," he said. "You see, there's always pressure from the special teams in the The "special teams" are anti-terrorist political police

who operate in the area, which since 1987 has been under a state of emergency. The Turkish government recently threw more than

200,000 troops - some reports put the figure at closer to 300,000 — into a 10-year struggle to suppress a rebellion led by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

But the latest operation has so far failed to curb the insurgency, which has already claimed 15,000 lives. On a recent visit to another

journalists were constantly surrounded by a dozen policemen. "We're accompanying you for your own protection," explained one officer, you nev-

city in the region, Sirnak,

er know...' He insisted nonetheless that Sirnak, with a popula-tion of 20,000, was calm. The main squre was under tight surveillance by several police vehicles. Still, the streets showed the effects of machine-gun fire from clashes in August 1992.

Later in Diyarbakir, a

lawyer compared the silence in the region to "bubbling in a covered pot." He said security forces

"had silenced everyone." They uproot rural populatins and burn villages," charging that "dozens of villages that had been evacuated in the Batman and Sirnak regions." The Turkish government has strongly denied that its

forces have razed communities in their campaign against the PKK "The government does not

burn down villages," insisted Prime Minister Tansu Ciller late last month. Kurdish leaders inter-

viewed by AFP reported that the army and the police make. no distinction between PKK activists and ordinary citizens, often suspected by authorities of harboring sympathies for the rebels. "The man in the street no

longer trusts the PKK or the

dicted by government officials in Diyarbarkir, regional headquarters for the

state," according to the

lawyer. "He hates them

emergency zone, who maintain that the PKK and local Kurdish population are on good terms. Citing the apparent and prevailing calm, one official said: "The military successes

year are responsible for this peaceful atmosphere." But elsewhere residents are adamant that there will be no improvement in their lives until the state relieves the pressure it has imposed on

of the security forces against

the PKK since the start of the

They may have to wait a white longer, however, the state of emergency was extended for another four months last Wednesday.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles

.... Maghreb CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740 Church of the Ansunc 637440.

Church of the Assumedation Tel. 623541. 71331. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. Amman 652526

WEATHER

Clouds will appear at different altitudes with winds southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Min/Max. temp.

dings: Amman 31 per cent. USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

Dr. Mukhles Halasa Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzeh ... Dr. Shtaiwi Abu Zayed . Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 637055 637660

ZARQA: Dr. Farah Al Aqarbawi 987722 Khalifch pharmacy 985417

Food Control Centre Civil Defence Department Civil .Defence Immediate 897467

(directory assistance), Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs
Jordan Television 623101 . 773111 815615 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Cenure S.L. Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/5 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 10c statute, Abdali 66012/13/
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/90
Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA:

(09)900560 . (09)986732 I (09)990990 (02)275555

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA

ARRIVALS

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Damascus (RJ) Larrisca (RJ)
Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Beirut (RJ)
Doha, Bahrain (RJ) New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
London (RJ)
Madrid, Geneva (RJ) Athens (RJ) Madrid, Geneva (RJ) Rome (RJ) ... Frankfurt (RJ) Aqaba (RJ) Carro (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) . Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) Moscow (SU) Cairo (MS) Beirut (ME Istanbul (TK

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

...... Aqaba (RU)
..... Beirut (RU)
..... Aqaba, Frankfurt (RU)
.... Tunis, Casablanca (RU) 11:15 Amsterdam, New York (R Athens (R Cairo (R Jeddah (R Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) Damascus (R Singapore, Jakarta (R Flights (Terminal 2) **07:10** . Rome (AZ) Doba, Muscat (GF)
..... Khartoum (SD)
..... Moscow (SU)

MARKET PRICES Pepper (hot)
Pepper (sweet) 320/ 300

Chief HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Dep. Ammas ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Art. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sanday Art. Ammas ... 5:00 p.m. every Sanday

320 / 189 160 / 80 340 / 200 630/450 500/300 420/300 ... 620/500 650/420 320/200

court, up to half of that wealth should be given unconditionally by the man to the woman, before being able to use his right to divorce her," he said. Iran's divorce law has recently been amended by the expediency council, which makes the final ruling on all legislative issues. **JORDAN TELEVISION**

Pl

..... News in French Ushuaia ... McHales Navy The Upper Hand **PRAYER TIMES**

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrassecta Church Tel: 622366 German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazzarene Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in American Tcl. 811295

Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy . Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy 15 / 27 9 /23 Alques pharmacy Public Security Department . Hotel Complaints Price Complaints Amman Municipality . 121

> Zarda Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarda National Hospital ibu Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital



His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben East International Education Exhibition Mohammad Saturday tours the Middle (Petra photo)

Prince Ghazi inaugurates Mideast education exhibit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputis-ing for His Majesty King Hussein His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Saturday inaugurated the first Middle East International Education Exhibition at Rawdat Al Ma'aref Schools and College at Khal-

Organised by Liverpool-John Moores University in the United Kingdom and Rawdat Al Ma'aref Schools and College, the four-day ex- al Bayt universities provided

languages, educational aids, laboratory equipment and tapes among other education-Publications and other

and publications in several

literature provided by the Spanish, Italian, French, British and American cultural centres in Amman are

also on display. A spokesman for the school said that Muta and AL

ni. Dr. Kuwari congratulated King Hussein on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and commended the King's pan-Arab stands on the Middle East peace pro-

cess. Discussion at the meeting centred on Jordanian-Qatari relations in information and cultural fields and means of enhancing them. The visiting minister handed the King an invitation by Sheikh Khalifah to visit Qatar. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani. — At a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour, Kuwari stressed that Qatar was determined to do all in its

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on

Saturday received at the Royal Court Qatari Minister of Information and Culture

Hamad Ben Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari, who conveyed to him the greetings of the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah

Ben Hamad Al Thani and

Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Tha-

ity among Arab countries. Dr. Kuwari said tht divisions in the Arab World, as well as the continued suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the U.N. sanctions on their country, were harm-ing the Arab Nation. He said Qatar looks to the end of such suffering and the ter-

power to reestablish solidar-

mination of the embargo on

Iraq.
Referring to Jordanian-Qatari relations, Dr. Kuwari said that they were strong and continually progressing in all fields. He said the Qatari emir and the emirate's senior officials are intent on bolstering bilateral cooperation in all domains.
Dr. Kuwari said Prime

Minister Abdul Salam Majali's visit to Qatar which started Saturday was expected to be successful and would contribute to enhancing bilateral ties, adding that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's earlier visit to Doha was also successful and paved the way for closer brotherly cooperation in different areas.

Dr. Kuwari, who started a visit to Jordan Thursday, said he hoped that the Jordanian Parliament and the Qatari Shura council would initiate close cooperation and exchange expertise.

Referring to the Middle

East peace process, Dr. Kuwari said Qatar has welcomed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and hopes that peace treaties would soon be concluded on all the other

For his part, Mr. Srour said Jordan was keen on maintaining strong relations with the other Arab states and shared the Oatari hopes of a quick end to the sanctions on



tion and Culture Hamad Abdul Aziz Al His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives at the Royal Court Qatari Minister of Informa-Kuwari (Petra photo)

Mr. Srour paid tribute to Qatar for its support to Jordan, adding the Qatar has always followed a moderate policy under different cir-

Qatar determined to help reestablish

Arab solidarity — visiting minister

Dr. Kuwari Saturday also met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and discussed means of reestablishing solidarity among Arab states.

Earlier Saturday, Dr. Kuwari held talks with Information Minister Jawad Anani on cooperation between Qatar and Jordan in

The two sides agreed to set up a draft committee to draw up an executive protocol for the implementation of a 1981 bilateral accord on cooperation in information fields.

Dr. Kuwari said that his visit aims at further enhancing bilateral cooperation in informtion and cultural affairs, adding that Qatar appreciates Jordanian cadres' contributions to the development of the emirate's information services over the

Dr. Anami told a press gathering after the talks that the two sides discussed the exchange of information materials and augmenting coopertion between the national news agencies in both countries based on an agreement signed between the two agencies in 1990.

According to Dr. Anani the two sides reached an initial agreement on joint production of radio and television programmes.

Dr. Kuwari described his meetings with Jordanian officials as fruitful and reflecting the strong relations between

Local tomatoes fail Israeli test

THE FIRST shipment of Jordanian tomatoes was not allowed into Israel Thursday after failing to pass the Israeli ministry of agriculture's quality check. The ministry said a new shipment of tomatoes from Jordan is expected to arrive

on Sunday.

The ministry said the shipment, containing 20 tonnes of small and large tomatoes, arrived at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge Thursday morning. The tomatoes had external damage and many were covered in mold, large quantities of pesticide remains and soil, the ministry said. The price of tomatoes has reached a new record

for display as well.

of the exhibition.

Prince Ghazi, who is the

The opening was attended

King's cultural adviser,

toured the different sections

by Sir Philip Carter of Liverpool-John Moores Uni-

versity, Mohammad Dweik

and Basem Barakat of Raw-

dat Al Ma'aref Schools, a

group of invited educationists

and heads of educational in-

stitutions in the country.

high despite reports that the public is buying fewer of them, the ministry reported. It said the wholesale price of a kilo of tomatoes reached NIS 10

Teams unearth Stone Age homes, towers in eastern Amman area

AMMAN (Petra) - An ern part of Amman because Archaeological survey of areas in eastern Amman districts has uncovered homes and towers built along hills and wadis during the Stone Age Circa 7,000 B.C., according to Mohammad Wahib, head of the excavation team from the Departconducted the two-month survey.

Dr. Wahib said that the survey was part of an overall programme to canvass all of the Greater Amman regions for archaelogical sites with a

view to protecting them.
"We started with the east-

there have been very active construction operations...there; lately, and the department plans to ensure that archaeological sites are not tampered with or lost to construction works," said Dr. Wahib.

Adding that the department was currently documenting the newly discovered sites, Dr. Wahib said that the finds clearly indicated that human settlements existed in the region since the Stone, Bronze, Iron, Roman and Islamic epocs.

Dr. Wahib praised the close cooperation with Amman Municipality in discover-

ing tens of ancient sites in the eastern parts of Amman, noting that agreement was reached with the municipality on special precautions to be taken to safeguard these sites during construction opera-

He said that the finds would enrich Amman's historical past and offer scholar and researchers a priceless cashe in their work.

Based on the new discoveries. Dr. Wahib said the department concluded that human settlement started in eastern Amman district before extending westwards.

Israeli tourists flock to Jordan while Jordanians wait for Israeli visas

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli tourists are flocking to Jordan in hundreds every day under visas and permissions granted by the Interior Ministry in Am-man, but the Israeli govern-ment has yet to issue the first visa for Jordanian tour groups, travel agents and potential tourists said Satur-

While the Jordanian authorities issue permits for Israeli tourists to enter the Kingdom through the southern and northern crossings in about six days after they receive the applications, Israel appears to be adopting a complicated procedure involving thoronigh security screening, they said.
The Israeli permission

could take between 10 and 15 days, said an official of Apollo Tours in Amman. Although the Jordanian procedures also involve security screening, the pro-cess is expedited in Jordan

while the Israelis appear to be taking their own time, according to travel agents. Israeli tourists started coming in on Nov. 12, two days after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

However, until Saturday, no Jordanian tour group is

known have crossed into Israel, travel agents said. Individual cases of businessmen wishing to visit Israel are treated differently since their applications to the Israeli authorities are also followed up by their contacts in Israel and the occupied territories:

Dozens of Jordanian businessmen have already visited the Jewish state, and most of them have also secured semi-permanent resi-

dence status there. But the first group of Jordanian tourists is still awaiting permission to enter Israel.

Pending the opening of Israeli and Jordanian diplomatic missions in Amman and Tel Aviv respectively in the second week of December — a formal announcement of establishing diplomatic relations is expected on Nov. 27 - travel agents are handling visa applications

sent to the border crossing

from tourists from both sides. The applications are forwarded to the concerned authorities on the two sides, and permissions are usually

and available to travellers

"Security measures and restrictions imposed by Israel are delaying the issuance of visas to Jordanians, quite contrary to what is happening to Israelis wishing to come to Jordan," Daoud Qutob of Diana Tours said

We call upon Israeli anthorities to speed up the issuance of visas to our tourists and we hope our call will meet with a positive response,' Mr. Qutob was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Global Tours and Travel Company, which says it plans to organise weekly tour packages to Israel, hopes to send the first group of 40 Jordanian tourists to Israel on Dec. 12, an official of the company

Global Tours is among several Jordanian travel agencies which have prepared tour packages to Israel and are advertising in the local press. However, it is unlikely that the number of Jordanians visiting Israel will be anywhere near the flow in

the opposite directions. A survey conducted by the Institute of Spatial Analysis has found that some 600,000 ing Jordan this year and almost half probably will, the

Jerusalem Post reported. The survey conducted by the institute's Geographical Research Centre, was conducted among a selected sample of 527 adult Israeli Jews, the Post said

According to its finding, about 237,000 Israelis will probably visit Jordan during the coming year, about the same number that visited Turkey last year.

The survey also found that almost half of the 5.5 million terest in visiting Jordan. Of these, 23 per cent said they were afraid or felt insecure, while 17 per cent said they were uninterested in visiting Jordan in particular or any

"Groups showing particular interest in going to Jordan included those with higher education, the secular and those with above-average in-comes," the Post said. "Fear or insecurity about travelling to Jordan was particularly evident in the group with 10 or less years of schooling and those with less than average

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives PSD chief

Princess Rania Abdullah Saturday opened at Maher Al Samera'i. The exhibition includes ligraphy as a recurrent theme.

Chief of Staff sees off battalion

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Balqa shuts down restaurants, shops Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al

at 5:00 p.m.

Traffic safety seminar to start

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hus- AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security sein Saturday received at the Royal Court Department (PSD) will organise a two-week Public Security Department (PSD) Director seminar on international traffic safety begin-Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al ning Nov. 26 with the aim of promoting Udwan and senior PSD officials who offered cooperation betwen the Traffic Department their best wishes to the King on the occasion and local societies concerned with traffic of his 59th birthday. Lt.-Gen. Udwan pre- safety. The seminar, which will be organised sented King Hussein, in the name of the PSD, by Swedish experts, will discuss several issues with a momento. The meeting was attended related to driving vehicles, training and eduby Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shak-cating drivers, vehicle mechanical safety, traffic laws and accidents.

Princess Rania opens exhibition CVDB extends JD6.1m in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness AMMAN (Petra) — the Cities and Villages Princess Rania Abdullah Saturday opened at Development Bank (CVDB) has extended 92 Alia Art Gallery an exhibition of artworks by loans worth JD6,186,000 to local municipal councils. During the first 10 months of 1994. paintings and ceramics utilising Arabic cal- Some 71 municipal councils and 21 rural councils benefitted from the loans to finance several projects. Last year, the bank extended 172 loans worth JD7,487,000.

Kaabneh Saturday attended a celebration SALT (Petra) — Balga Governor Eid Qatarheld to bid farwell to a Jordanian battalion neh Saturday shut down several restaurants. leaving for Croatia to replace another Jorda- bakeries, poultry and grocery shops, hair nian peacekeeping force deployed there, dressers and tile plants for violations of Gen. Kaabneh urged the battalion's person- health regulations. Mr. Qatarneh said the nel to carry out their duties in the best manner measures were temporary, and the stores and and urged them to preserve Jordan's reputa- shops will be re-opened as soon as they comply with the regulations.

Zarqa community college to sy itch to all women

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - Starting in January. Zarqa Community College will be open to only women students after a recent decision by the Ministry of Higher Education to help

curb costs at that institution. According to Ahmad Husban, the secretary general at the ministry, this step became necessary after male enrollment dropped in the past few

"Currently, 1,100 women attend the college against only 130 males," Dr. Husban

He told the Jordan Times that male enrollment began decreasing at all community colleges after the Ministry of Education took a decisions two years ago requiring a bachelors degree as a prerequisite for employment as a teacher at the ministry's

schoois. "This decision reflected significantly on the number of males enrolling at community colleges in the Kingdom," he said.

Dr. Husban added that there are 50 government and special community colleges. and that more than 60 per cent of these are coeducational colleges. However, he said, Zarqa

Community College was

mixed just in name, but that

in practice, women students

were separated from the male

He said that this year will be the final year for the second-year male students attending college. For next year, only women will attend the day classes.

The 30 male students currently in their first year at the college will be transferred to other colleges, he said. The change, according to Dr. Husban, "will decrease

the cost of the governmentrun college. He said that community college introduced new courses to their curriculum in an effort to overcome the decreasing number of male

students enrolling in community colleges. "As you know, community colleges are designed to educate and increase awareness of people, rather than simply granting a degree to help graduate get employed," Dr.

Husban said. "But we added new courses such as computer programming, fashion design, skin care, and others," he said.

He stressed that the change at Zarqa Community College will not reflect on other community colleges.

"This college is a special case because it had day and evening classes. The morning was designed for women, and the evening for men, and it was costing the ministry significantly, and I believe we took the right decision," Dr. Husban said.

Israelis are interested in visitupon entry. Japanese, Jordanian universities sign medical exchange agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) - The University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine and the Nihon University School of Medicine in Japan Saturday signed an agreement on medical exchanges aimed at contributing to international collaboration in fields of interest to both institutions, according to a University of Jordan spokesperson. Under the agreement, the two sides agreed to promote the ex-change of faculty to undertake joint research and teaching activities, cooperate in other projects of mutual interest including training sessions, workshops, semi-

nars and conferences. They also agreed on en-couraging their respective faculties to conduct joint research on topics of major concern to both of them, cooperate in standing projects currently available at both institutions, encourage the exchange of research and



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh and Nihon University School of Medicine Dean Yokihasu Sezal Saturday sign an agreement on medical exchange between their institutions.

and information as a means of facilitating the interchange

of medical technology.

The agreement said that it aims at strengthening mutual friendship between the two universities, establishing a viable foundation for medical education in Jordan thereby strengthening clinical and research activities and enhancing the growth and develop-

study materials, publications ment of both universities in their own respective countries.

> The three-year agreement, which was signed by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh and Professor Yokihasu Sezal, dean of the Nihon University School of Medicine and its vicepresident, is renewable automatically for an additional period.

FILM

🌣 Film entitled "Father Goose" at the American Center

LECTURES

☆ Lecture entitled "The Epigraphic Survey of Bayir, Southern Jordan" by Dr. Fawwaz Al Kraysheh at the

American Center of Oriental Research at 5:00 p.m. Lecture in Arabic entitled "Who Are the Hebrews?" by Dr. Ziad Muna at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

students.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahir Samarrai at Alia Art
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery. ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings
- exhibition by Husni Abu Karim. .☆ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Draw-
- ings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products
- by Atallah Zabaneh ☆ First Exhibition of Jordanian Engineering and Electric Products at the Amman International Exhibition ball, Marj Al Hamam.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre). **★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication** and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al

مهلذا من المصل

Condolences

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times extend their hearfelt condolences to their colleague Ibrahim Salhi on the death of his

Said Salhi

who passed away on Saturday. May his soul rest in peace.

Chissano wins Mozambique elections

MAPUTO (AFP) — Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique's ruling former Marxist party was elected Mozambi-que president in the southern African state's first free elections after: a bitter civil war, electoral officials announced

Saturday. Mr. Chissano, the head of state and leader of the FRE-LIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) party won outright after the first round with 53.3 per cent of the vote held on Oct. 27-29, the official results showed.

His only serious rival, exguerrilla commander Afonso Dhlakama, achieved only 33.73 per cent of the pres-

FRELIMO won the first multi-party parliamentary elections after 20 years in power in the southern African nation obtaining 44.33 per cent of the vote, giving it the largest number of seats in the 250-seat new parliament.

But Mr. Dhlakama's RE-NAMO (Mozambican National Resistance) opposition nonetheless came close with 37.78 per cent of the

Of 14 parties or coalitions contesting parliamentary elections, only one other, the Democratic Union, managed to pass the 5 per cent no to attribute some positions threshold into parliament of power to RENAMO mem-

DHAKA (AFP) — Interna-

tional pressure mounted

Saturday on the Bangladesh

government and opposition

to end a bitter dispute, with

Commonwealth envoy Sir Ni-

mian Stephen likely to end a

ited States, Canada and Bri-

tain, all major aid donors,

were to meet political leaders Sunday, reliable sources said.

N. Merili, Canadian High

Commissioner Jon Scott and

his British colleague Peter

Fowler held separate meet-

ings with opposition leader

Sheikh Hasina Wajed Friday.

ign from parliament, the

Bangladesh news agency

HONOLULU, Hawaii

(Agencies) — President Bill

Clinton, still stinging from

congressional election set-

backs, Friday urged "practic-

al hardheaded" solutions to

the country's problems and

no "moaning" or "being

Mr. Clinton, who is spend-

ing a few days relaxing here

with first lady Hillary

Rodham Clinton, after re-

turning from a trade mission

to Asia, paid tribute to the

outgoing governor of Hawaii, John Waihee.

governor, Mr. Clinton spoke

glowingly about Hawaii's

employer-paid health care system and bitterly about his

failure to pass legislation to

create a similar system

in health care is basically

what we ought to do every-

where," Mr. Clinton said.

"What you have done here

The president said he was

"surprised and somewhat dis-

appointed" that when he

proposed a similar system, "the people who profit great-

ly from the other sort of

system" were able to con-

vince Americans his plan was

a government takeover of

Mr. Clinton gave no hint

At a farewell dinner for the

(BSS) reported.

negative.

nationwide.

They urged her not to res-

U.S. Ambassador David

Ambassadors from the Un-

mediation mission soon.

television immediately after the National Elections Commission announced his victory, Mr. Chissano said: The Mozambican people won these elections, they voted for peace."

"War was beaten, and with it any attempt to divide the country by region, or tribe."

The president-elect said he and the FRELIMO party recognised the people's vote of confidence in them, to continue the process of national reconciliation after the 16-

year post-independence civil war which ended two years

Mr. Dhlakama, whose RE-NAMO former guerreilla group led the struggle against FRELIMO's government unthe 1992 peace accord, said: "The people won these elections.

Mr. Chissano now has three weeks to name his new cabinet including the nation's 11 provincial governors as he takes the helm of a multiparty regime with strong presidential powers. In terms of policy-making,

RENAMO's strong position in parliament is thus likely to be more symbolic than practically significant.

However, political analysts in Maputo expect Mr. Chissawith 5.15 per cent of the vote. bers in the central region Addressing the nation on where its support is strongest.

The sources said the diplo-

mats warned Mr. Wajed of the crisis that would erupt if

the 153 opposition legislators

The diplomats have been

working behind the scenes to

end the eight month opposi-

tion boycott of parliament. They are demanding the government stand down or pass a

constitutional amendment to

allow free elections under a

The dispute has led to

several nationwide strikes

The ambassadors are pre-

paring a proposal to end the

dispute and have met the

Commonwealth envoy sever-

al times in the past week,

whether he will seek broad

reform again next year when

Republicans will control both

the House and the Senate for

He joked to the audience about the "chilly" climate in

Washington in the aftermath

of the election and said

Hawaii's health system is an

example of what the whole

great is not moaning or being negative or being divided or

running down people who are

different from what we are."

"What has always made us

great is coming together, fac-

ing our problems, joining

together and figuring out

some practical hardheaded

During their brief vacation

here, the Clintons have been

spending their time relaxing

and staying out of the public

spending much of her time

reading or walking along the

beach at the Kaneohe Marine

Base where they are staying

The president, meanwhile,

has been spending almost all

of his time playing golf.
The Clintons stopped here

in a guest cottage.

The first lady has been

ways to solve our problems,'

"What has always made us

country must do.

Mr. Clinton said.

the first time in 40 years.

caretaker administration.

and deadly clashes.

political sources said.

resigned from parliament.

Bangladesh rivals under pressure to end hostilities

old U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mozambique, Aldo Ajello made an announce-ment of behalf of the United Nations to say that the polls had been "free and fair.

"This is a fantastic day for me, it means the peace pro-cess is finally complete," he

Despite his defeat and former threats to reject the election results due to alleged fraud, Mr. Dhlakama has apparently accepted the out-

He entered the national parliament buildings for the first time Saturday to hear the official announcement of the results.

Announcing the results, the president of the National Elections Commission, Brazao Mazula, admitted the commission had received numerous complaints about alleged irregularities. However, he said, the

commission examined all these complaints and found none of them to constitute deliberate fraud which could alter the election's outcome. Some 88 per cent of the 6.4 million registered voters cast

their balllots in the poll. In his address to the nation, Mr. Chissano reaffirmed his promise to ensure Mr. Dhlakama received a "dignified" and respectable

treatment as opposition lead-

Some observers were hopeful a solution would be

found before Monday, when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Mr. Wajed are to meet at

an Armed Forces Day cere-

mony. Since 1991, the cere-

mony has been the only place

where the two leaders meet.

Reliable sources said Sir

Niniah was likely to leave for

Australia Tuesday. The opposition Sangbad news-

paper reported that Sir Ni-

mian had set Tuesday as the

Since arriving on Oct. 13,

Sir Ninian a former governor

general of Australia, has

dealt with 14 proposals,

according to one newspaper

for a brief stay on return from a trip to the Philippines and

Indonesia, where the presi-

dent attended the Asia-

Pacific Economic Coopera-

tion (APEC) forum summit.

tic leaders searched for clues

to the party's mid-term elec-

tion debacle and laid a good deal of blame on White

House strategic and policy

Looking ahead, the Demo-

crats said the party's chances

of recapturing House and Senate majorities in 1996

rested largely on whether President Clinton could re-

cover and win re-election.

They urged him to focus on

the economy and government

reforms and spend more time

outside Washington explain-

ing his initiatives and accom-

Looking back, the party

leaders said that from gays in the military to health care

reform. Mr. Clinton pro-

jected a liberal image that

cost the party critical support

among independents and

male voters, particularly in

"He was perceived as being out of sync with many

of the new Democrat princi-

ples that folks supported

when they voted for presi-

the south and west.

Meanwhile state Democra-

Mrs. Zia leaves for the

estimate.

Clinton urges 'practical' solutions to problems

deadline for a settlement.

Groups of peoples fol-lowed the announcement of the results on radio and then jogged through the streets of the capital Maputo cheering FRELIMO's win.

Cars honked and people shouted Mr. Chissano's name. Others planned vic-tory parties for Saturday night. Mr. Dhlakama said Satur-

day the country's elections had not been fair but he accepted his defeat. "We accept the election results, but they were not

fair." he told a news conference at his Maputo residence. "...However, we acknow-ledge that they were the only elections and we accept them with their deficencies." Mr. Dhlakama said he

would play a constructive role as the main opposition leader in the 250-seat parlia-ment, where RENAMO will hold 112 seats. He said the greatest victory of the Mozambican people who for the first time would enjoy multi-party rule.
"There will never again be

dictatorship in our country. From now on the people will have a representative voice in

have a representance voice in parliament," he said.

Mr. Dhlakama echoed calls by the FRELIMO government for peace, saying; "I send a message of peace to the Mozambican people."

Maklives Wednesday for a

two-day official visit as cur-

rent chairperson of the South

Association for Regional

Wajed's Awami League

(AL) told AFP that the

opposition might accept a

president appointed by the

ruling Bangladesh Nationalis

Party or the country's chief justice as the head of an

But they will not accept Mrs. Zia, as the BNP insists. The BNP, which rejected

the opposition stand for

several months, reportedly

agreed in their last proposal

to an interim government

with ruling and opposition MPs and a technocrat.

dent in 1992," said Tom Hen-

Democratic chairman.

drickson, the North Carolina

Ironically, in touting his biggest achievement —

steady economic growth -

Mr. Clinton may have stirred

resentment among lower-

income blue collar workers

whose wages are stagnant or declining. Many of these tra-

ditional Democratic voters

stayed home or supported

"Neither the president nor

the rest of us did a very good

job of addressing the prob-lems of the middle class, par-

ticularly the blue collar mid-

dle tlass," said Texas Demo-

cratic Chairman Bob Slagle.

led down to average Americans," said Harold Ickes, the

deputy White House chief of

staff dispatched to the meet-

ing to soothe the anger and

disappointment of the state

At their first post-election

gathering, the Democratic

leaders said it was not their

intent to pummel Mr. Clin-

ton, and they thanked him

for raising more than \$40 for

the party and its candidates.

The state leaders said Mr.

Clinton had an impressive list

of accomplishments that were

lost on most Americans.

"Results have not yet trick-

Republicans.

party officials.

interim government.

senior leader of Mr.



Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds (centre) and President Mary Robinson (left) attend the ecumenical service for Peace and Reconcilia-

tion at Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin (AFP

Ahern elected new Irish party leader

DUBLIN (R) — Finance Minister Bertie Ahern was elected unopposed Saturday as the leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest political party — but the republic's .. .: political crisis appeared far from

Ahern took over from outgoing Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and immediately promised to keep the fragile Northern Ireland peace initiative on the rails.

"The peace process must continue on, without interruption, without besitation, without pause. That is our duty and our responsibility. It can bring a peace divided of happiness, employment and shared prosperity." he told a party meeting.
The 43-yer-old Ahern, a

consensus politician re-nowned for his skill with opponents, took over as party leader after his only rival, Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, dropped

Mr. Ahern, the youngest leader in the 70-year history of Fianna Fail, now faces an uphill climb trying to form a new government with the Labour Party, which pulled out in protest at Mr. Reynolds' handling of an extradition case.

British and Irish politicians have united in urging con-tinued peace talks in North-ern Ireland where both the Irish Republican Army and its Protestant guerrilla foes have called ceasefires in the 25-year-old conflict.

Mr. Ahern told his party: 'I want to continue the magnificent peace-making task Albert Reynolds began and I pledge to put the best and most experienced people to work on this key task.".

Irish political .commentators said a quick resolution of the republic's crisis was unlikely. Parliament meets Tuesday to try and choose a new government and prime minister.

The Irish Times said Labour would propose its leader and "kingmaker" Dick Spring as the new premier, a move that is bound to infuriate Fianna Fail, the biggest party in a country well used to political upheavals. Mr. Ahern and Mr. Spring

are expected to hold exploratory talks over the weekend.

If they fail, then Labour could be tempted into an alliance with opposition Fine Gael leader John Bruton. If that stalls, Ireland will be plunged into a general election just two years after the

All sides on both sides of the Irish Sea have pledged not to let the instability interfere with a peace process that -began with a jont Anglo-Irish delcaration a year ago for which Mr. Reynolds took

much credit. But Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's politicla wing, urged politicians in Dublin to sort their troubles out as quickly as they could.

A protracted crisis leaving Ireland without an effective government could dent the fragile process at a crucial

Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major were expecting to announce soon the next stage in the process, a framework document for all-party talks in Northern Ireland.

Britain is also gearing up for unprecedented exploratory talks which it promised to hold with Sinn Fein after three months of peace.

These talks will be very

delicate. Britain is expected to ask the IRA to hand in its powerful arsenal before full talks can begin — a demand Sinn Fein will find it hard to

6 people shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (Agencies) — At least six people were killed in several shootings here Saturday, hospital and police

sources said. The victims included a police constable who was hit

by a sniper and a 14-year boy caught in crossfire between two groups, witnesses said.
Incidents of violence have been occurring almost daily in Pakistan's largest city despite the deployment of

troops aimed at restoring.

The law and order deterioration in Karachi is generally attributed to ity in the early hours. ethnic, political and religious frictions.

Police said young militants of rival factions of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) began shooting from rooftops in the tense Korangi area early in the morning. The boy died instantly

when a bullet hit his head. The bullet-riddled bodies of two unidentified youngesters. were found in the same local-

> "The firing is a result of factional fighting between the militants MQM," a Korangi police officer said.

Troops and police made no effort to intervene, and no arrests were made, the officer

Nepal's Congress concedes defeat

KATHMANDU (R) — Nep-al's liberal Congress Party conceded defeat in the Himalayan kingdom's general elections Saturday as its Communist rivals sought to patch together a coalition to help it

govern a divided electorate. "We are out of power," Congress spokesman Mahesh Acharva told Reuters, "The indications are we will have

to sit in the opposition."
With 175 to 205 parliamentary races decided, the Com-munist Party Unified Marxist-Leminist (UML) had won 83 seats while Congress, the outgoing ruling party,

had 62. "I think it is very clear the voters don't want us in the government," Mr. Acharya

said. "We have to abide by Congress and the Com-

munists fought side by side for decades against autocratic rule, finally putting an end to the kingdom's absolute monarchy in 1990 with prodemocracy demonstrations in which more than 50 people

The two parties participated in an interim govern-ment before 1991 multiparty elections won by Congress. But Prime Minister Girija

Prasad Koirala, sapped by allegations of corruption and party infighting, was forced to call snap polls when he lost a vote of confidence in July.

On Saturday, as the final votes trickled in from villages to Kathmandu, the UML was on the verge of winning at least a plurality of votes and leading the kingdom into

Polling in some 18 constituencies, disrupted by violence Tuesday, was rescheduled for the weekend and authorities said final results might not be announced for several days.

Mr. Acharya said a UMLled government would have to respect democracy, the constitutional monarchy and human rights, as well as Conress's economic policies of liberalisation.

"There is no reason for us to disheartened," Mr. Acharya said. "Congress's policies will be carried out. They (UML) have to be

pragmatic."
UML President Man Mohan Adhikary was set to become the next prime minister, UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal said.

DILI, East Timor (R) — An

Dili Police Chief Colonel Sugiauto Andreas said Andrew Naughtan, from Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory, would be deported for becoming involved in local politics and taking part in Friday's demonstra-tion outside Dili's cathedral. Andreas said Dili was calm with business returning to normal after being rocked this week by a series of violent demonstrations that refocused world attention on the Portuguese colony Indonesia invaded in 1975 and

"He (Nanghtan) was in-volved in local politics and was in the midst of the de-

been deported. Meanwhile, 29 East

Timorese youths marked the start of their second week boled up in the U.S. embassyn compound in Jakana with renewed calls for the release of guerrilla Xanana Gusmao, who leads East Timor's independence movement. He is serving a 20-year jail sent-ence for subversion.

In Jakarta, Indonesia's armed forces commander General Feisal Tanjung said Saturday the authorities would welcome the protesters if they left the com-

fresh protest in Dili. He said they had pledged to care

Timorese youths protested violantly Friday outside the cathedral, beating two Indonesians with blows and kicks. The two were badly injured.

The demonstrators and 200 worshippers were then pelted with rocks by a group of Indonesians gathered outside the cathedral compound. The deportation order

The deportation order came amid fresh accusations from security officials that foreign journalists were fanning unrest in East Timor.

Dili's military spokesman Major Laedan Simbolon said there were core foreign long. there were signs foreign jour-nalists helped ignite the pro-

The United Nations regards Portugal as the administering power and does not recognise Indonesian

Boy informs on burglar father

BELING (AFP) - A 12. year-old boy has helped Beil ng police crack an eight-mai burgling ring by adopting the Orwellian expedient o squealing on his own father press reports said Saturday. The boy in question, Jim Rui, had his suspicion aroused when his father re turned home one day with three strangers and a bag ful of hairdressing equipment the China Daily said. Jing father refused to respond to his questions regarding the source of the equipment but when he heard the next da of a robbery at a nearb barber shop, the adolescen detective put the fact together. Jing reported hi suspicions to the local police who searched the family house and arrested Jing father together with sever other accomplices. During the 1966-76 Cultural Revolu tion, national publicity wa often given to zealous son and daughters who accuse their parents of politica

Thai monk held on pornography charges

BANGKOK (AFP) -- A 69 year-old senior Buddhis monk has been arrested a pornography charges aften was found to be in the posses sion of 75 sex videocassene and 377 magazines, polic said Saturday. "I just wante to look at them, I don't se anything wrong with that, Mahasupin Kunaro, an assis tant to the abbott at a monas tery in the southern The province of Nakhon Si Than marat, was quoted by a polic spokesman as saying. The arrest follows an operation Thursday in which a polic officer had asked for an audi ence with the Buddhist leade and was invited to watch Japanese pornographic film The monk was also found t have three bottles of whisk in addition to a television an a video player. The mon was likely to escape punish ment with his superior judg ing the offense as "minor. police said

Prosecution rests in 'Hollywood 🧓 madam' trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)

woman testified Friday the she was sent by Heidi Flei to a hotel room to have so with a group of men wh turned out to be undercove police officers. "You'e pected to engage in sei ft money, didn't you?" Kimbe ly Burch was asked o videotape by Deputy Distri Attorney Alan Carter. "Ye I did," Ms. Burch said. knew what was expected. Ms. Burch, who testified t videotape because of illnes was the last prosecution wi ness in Mr. Fleiss' panderir trial. Defence lawyers begi presenting their case Mor day. Prosecutors say M Fleiss ran a call-girl rit catering to the rich an famous. Her lawyers say it so-called Hollywood mada was entrapped by police, at is the victim of selective pr secution because her clien weren't arrested. Ms. Fleis 28, faces 11 years in prison. convicted. The clients the Ms. Burch and three other woman met at the Bever Hilton Hotel in June 195 were undercover Beverl Hills Police officers posing businessmen. One of the officers counted out \$1,500 i cash and asked what sexu acts Ms. Burch would pe form for that fee, she test | fied. Soon after, about 2 officers burst into the root and arrested Ms. Burch at the other women. Ms. Burc and Samantha Burdette wei granted immunity for testify ing against Ms. Fleiss.

Mother who stabbed rapist freed by court

LONDON (R) — A Britis

judge refused to jail a woma

who stabbed a man accuse of raping her 13-year-oldaughter. The woman, wb cannot be named for legi reasons, attacked David Har cup with a flick-knife whe she spotted him waiting at doctor's office near he home. Mr. Harcup had bee charged with raping th woman's daughter but wa freed when evidence again him did not hald an Inde him did not hold up. Judg George Bathrust-Norma said he was "staggered" this the rape charge against Mi Harcup had been droppe and gave the mother a nine month prison sentence, sur pended for two years. H said she "had every reason t feel let down" by the decisio

Final tally gives Feinstein California Senate seat

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP)
— California Senator Dianne Feinstein claimed victory after the latest tally from the vote last week gave her a clear lead in the most expensive race in U.S. history.

"I believe the vote count clearly indicates that I am going to continue to repre-sent California," Ms. Feinstein said.

Her challenger Michael Huffington said however that he was concerned about "massive voting irregular-ities" and said he would ask immigration officials to check voter roles to see if noncitizens had cast ballots.

Immigration was a pivotal issue in the race, with Mr. Huffington backing a measure to deny illegal aliens services and their children public education and Ms. Feinstein opposing it.

The law, Proposition 187, passed by a wide margin but has been blocked by a judge

a probe into the voter lists reveals that fraud, while a problem, is not widespread enough to question the election results, and that Mrs. Feinstein has received a majority, then I will unhesitatingly congratulate her on her

victory. The latest count showed Ms. Feinstein more than 152.000 votes ahead of Mr. Huffington in the race which cost the oil tycoon \$27 million

of his own fortune.

Meanwhile, California voters who overwhelmingly supported rapid action to cut services for illegal immigrants now face a series of protracted court battles that could stretch out im-

plementing the law for years. Six out of 10 California voters approved the controversial Proposition 187 when they went to the polls on Nov. 8, hoping to put an end to the massive state spending channeled to the

(SOS) referendum ordered the state government to cut all funds for medical assistance - with the exception of emergency aid — as well as education and social expenditures doled out for illegal

It also required school officials, social workers and police to report any people they suspected of being illeg-

State taxpayers had be-come fed up with footing the more than \$3 billion annual bill for some 1.6 million illegal immigrants in California, most of them coming from Latin America. But within 24 hours of the

vote, immigrant and civil rights groups began court action to block the proposal's implementation, arguing the law was unconstitutional. A federal judge in Los

Angeles Wednesday issued a

10-day suspension against cutting off medical benefits as

In San Francisco, a judge suspended one of the proposition's orders calling for the expulsion of illegal immigrants from schools. Only two elements of the

porposal remained intact and they concerned increasing the penalties for making or possessing false identification Immigrants rights supporters heralded the decisions as the first victory for their

cause. "When you win a temporary restraining order, you're well on your way to a bigger victory," said Stephen Yagman, an attorney for one of the plaintiffs. "We anticipated this," said Ron Prince, one of the founders of the SOS move-

but a lost battle on the way to winning the war. "You're going to have pluses and minuses all the

ment, who is convinced this is

Australian to be deported from E. Timor on a tourist visa, had already Several hundred East

Australian was to be deported from East Timor Saturday after one of the biggest pro-independence protests since a massacre by Indonesian authorities in 1991.

annexed a year later.

monstration yesterday. We will be deporting him today," Col. Andreas told Reuters. It was unclear Saturday

Looking tired and dirty af-ter a week sleeping on the ground, the East Timorese embarrassed Indonesia by scaling the embassy fence last Saturday before a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clin-

pound. Col. Andreas said police would not arrest any East Timorese involved in Friday's

sovereignty.

The Foreign Ministry denied Friday that any riots had
taken place in Dili, blaming
the violence on a traders' quarrel, and dismissed the





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during the fighting for Vukovar, at a three-year com-memorative service Friday in the city, located in the

self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Krajina, an enclave of Creatia (AFP photo)

Negotiator to sign for Angolan rebels

peace talks negotiator will sign an Angola peace accord in the Zambian capital Lusaka Sunday instead of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, an Angolan government source said Saturday.

The source said a UNITA commander had told the United Nations Mr. Savimbi would not come to Lusaka but negotiator Eugenio Manuvakola should sign on his behalf.

Angoian President Eduardo Dos Santos arrived in Zambia's capital Lusaka Saturday and his government promised Mr. Savimbi safe passage if he would come to sign a peace accord Sunday. United Nations and Zam-

bian officials told reports they did not know whether Mr. Savimbi, whose main base at Huambo in Angola's central highlands was orverrun by government troops this month, would come.

The peace would end 19 years of civil war in Angola, an oil and diamond producing country on the west coast of southern Africa that became the cockpit of a cold war proxy conflict after indeneedence from Portugal in

North Korean capital of

Pyongyang Saturday after a

landmark, week-long visit

which reports from Beijing

and Seoul indicated was suc-

In Seoul the South Korean

national news agency cited a

message passed by the team

across the DMZ dividing the

two Koreas as saying the team had found some \$,000

weapons-grade, plutonium-

rich spent nuclear fuel rods

U.S. Defence Secretary

William Perry had said at the

height of the nuclear tensions

carlier this year that if the

plutonium was extracted

from the rods, Stalinist North

Korea could make "four or

In Beijing, the Japanese News Agency, Kyodo.

quoted team leader Norman Wulf as saying on arrival in

the Chinese capital that the five men had toured the

North's secretive Yongbyon

"We met with them for

approximately five days and

the discussions were intensive and extensive. Kyodo quoted Mr. Wulf as saying.

adding that the purpose of

the mission, under the Oct.

21 accord, was to deal with

the safe disposal of the rods.

Whether the two sides had

agreed on a method of safe

North Korea, through its

He did not however say

five" nuclear bombs.

nuclear complex.

U.S. team is satisfied

with N. Korean mission

TOKYO (AFP) - A U.S. News Agency monitored in State Department-led team of nuclear experts left the meetings between the two

tive."

States.

November.

embassy in Seoul."

The Zambian government telephoned Mr. Savimbi Friday asking whether the signing ceremony should be cal-

"He said 'no, no, no, please don't make that announcement. We need more time," said the Zam-bian official, who declined to be identified.

UNITA negotiator Eugenio Manuvakola told reporters at midday he still did not know whether Mr. Savimbi would or come or whether the peace pact would be "The leadership is in

military situation, they will decide on the situation of the political events in Lusaka," he said. The two sides initialled the pact in Lusaka on Oct. 31 after 11 months of U.N.-led

Angola and depending on the

talks and announced a truce Tuesday. But fighting continued unabated. The signing was originally set for Nov. 15 but was post-

poned to Sunday. U.N. mediator Alioune Blondin beye, United States Assistant Secretary of State

sides "useful and construc-

The 8,000 rods were ex-

tracted from North Korea's

five-megawatt experimental reactor in Yongbyon, 90

kilometres north of Pyon-

gyang earlier this year. In

keeping with the Geneva

agreement Pyongyang prom-

ised not to refuel it, and to

dispose of the rods safely in

consultation with the United

The visit was a landmark in

that it was the first time

American experts had visited

Yongbyon, though the Inter-

national Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) has been

there, and a new IAEA team

this weekend was issued visas

to help monitor the nuclear

freeze which Pyongyang says it effected at the beginning of

Citing an unidentified "di-

Moose and a senior Zambian official were considering going of Angola to collect Mr. Savimbi, the Zambian official said.

"We are ready to fly and

pick up anytime he is ready,'
the official said. Mr. Dos Santos was to take part Saturday in a summit of southern African leaders

trying to save the peace

"The Angolan govern-ment has ensured that all the necessary measures are in place to guarantee Mr. Savimbi's safe passage to Lusaka to come and sign the peace accord," the Angolan government said in a statement read in Lusaka by U.N. spokesman Joao Albuquer-

UNITA's Manuvakola, asked about the guarantee, said: "I don't know anything about that. I will rely on information from my lead-

Zambian and U.N. officials declined to say where Mr. Savimbi was.

A South African government source said Mr. Savimbi was believed to have been in

ghold of Jamba on Thursday. The United States, Russia and Portugal - the mediators of a 1991 accord that failed when UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rejected its defeat in a U.N.supervised election - urged the warring parties to sign the accord.

"The troika partners express their deep concern over the fighting that followed the initialling of the Lusaka pro-tocol on Oct. 31 and truce declaration of Nov. 15," they said in a joint statement in

"The observer countries agreed that it is in the interests of all concerned to have the protocol signed (Sunday) and to have the terms of the protocol effectively and fairly implemented in order to achieve genuine national reconciliation."

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe left for Lusaka Saturday, hoping to attend the signing of an Angolan

Mr. Mugabe was to chair a meeting in the Zambian capital Saturday of southern African leaders trying to save

his southeastern bush stronthe accord.

The front bow (Visor) of the sunken ferry Estonia (left) is brought to the surface after being lifted from the sea bed by the Finnish salvage-icebreaker Nordica. The bow will be taken to the Finnish mainland for investigation (AFP photo)

Estonia bow door towed into port for examination

plomatic source," Yonhap said the "interim report" from the U.S. team was filed HELSINKI (AFP) — The bow door of the car ferry Estonia, which sank in the to Washington through a spe-Baltic in September with the cial phone line over the DMZ loss of at least 912 lives, was with "administrative assisttowed into the Finnish port of ance from the American Hangoe early Sturday after being raised from the sea There was no immediate

independent confirmation of Finnish ice-breaker the the Yonhap report, which Nordical towed the 57-tonne also said North Korea had door into Hangoe, 125 cooperated with the visiting kilometres southwest of Hel-Yonhap said further that the special DMZ hotline had sinki, the international commission probing the sinking

been set up during the visit to The commission, compris-Pyongyang in June of former ing officials from Estonia, U.S. President Jimmy Car-Finland and Sweden, is hop-

ing examination of the door will shed light on the cause of the tragedy.

The visor was raised Friday after being hooked onto the Nordica's crane by Swedish Navy experts using a min-submarine. It was lying at a depth of 76 metres, two kilometres from the wreck of the ferry, which went down on Sept. 28 while sailing from Tallinn to Stockholm.

The so-far unexplained loss of the door is believed to have caused the car deck of the ferry to fill with water, causing the vessel to sink

Non-Communist voice grows in Vietnamese elections

Among the 4,759 candidates for provincial, district and municipal councils, 1,297 are not members of the ruling

But most of the non-Communists are still government officials sponsored by the Fatherland Front, an arm of the Communist Party and organisers of the election. So, analysts say, their independence could be questioned.

ities had never permittedsuch contestants in elections before 1990.

Forty million Vietnamese must vote in the polls.

elected by Vietnamese 18 years of age and above. A total of 3,109 council members will be chosen for five-year terms in 1,025 consti-

But the election has failed to excite the populace despite the relentless propaganda and the omnipresent red banners reminding the populaThe popular councils serve

as "mini national assemblies" at the local level. They select members of People's Committees - local executives which exercise real decisionmaking power at the local level.

Women, who make up more than half the popula-tion, only account for 27 per cent of candidates, and those less than 35 years old comprise 26 per cent.

Chinese president arrives Meanwhile, Chinese President and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin arrived in Ho Chi Minh City Saturday for a four-day official visit to Vietnam, officials at the city's Tan Son Nhat Airport said.

He was welcomed by the city's Communist Party secretary, Vo Tran Chi, a member of the ruling polit-buro, and by the chairman of Tan Sang.

strong delegation flew in on a Chinese Boeing 747 from

In Ho Chi Minh City, be was due to attend a banquet at the Reunification Palace, until 1975 the presidential palace of the Saigon government.

U.N. condemns 'villainous' Serb napalm attack on Bihac

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said on Saturday the Serbs were guilty of a "villainous act" in using "villainous act" in using napalm in an air raid on the Bosnian town of Bihac, a so-called U.N. safe area.

Fresh fighting was reported in the northwestern Bihac region, where Muslim government troops are striving desperately to fend off attacks from rebel Muslims and Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia.

The United Nations said the use of napalm in Friday's raid on Bihac town by Croatian Serb warplanes was the first time napalm - the gelatinous and highly inflammable liquid used to devastating effect by the U.S. in Vietnam — had been used in more than three years of fighting in former Yugosla-

"This is the first confirmed use of napalm in the war in Yugoslavia and it represents a clear violation of international conventions which ban the use of such weaponry of mass destruction and terror, said U.N. spokesman Paul

Risley. Another U.N. spokesman, Thant Myint-U, described the raid, in which cluster bombs were also dropped, as "a villainous act deserving of the strongest international condemnation."

He added: "it was nothing short of miraculous that extensive loss of life did not OCCUT.

The United Nations said the bombs fell in an uninhabited industrial zone. U.N. staff and local authorities were trying to defuse unexploded cluster bomb parts found in the area. U.N. military observers

said the napalm did not explode, but the area was covered with napalm gelatine. "Had it exploded it would have caused a huge fire," Mr. Risley said.

The Security Council was expected to authorise NATO jets to confront Serb aircraft bombing Bosnia from Croatia after issuing a warning Friday condemning the attack on Bihac.

The Council condemned "in the strongest possible terms the attack on the safe area of Bihac by aircraft be-

longing to the so-called Kra-jina Serb forces, which in-volved the dropping of napalm and cluster bombs in southwest Bihac."

The Council has scheduled consultations for Saturday to consider a British draft resolution that would authorise NATO fighters to chase Serb aircraft attacking Bosnia back into Croatia, and if necessary, bomb their base at Udbina Airport in Croatia,

occupied by rebel Serbs. United Nations officials reported heavy fighting in the Bihac area, where the Bosnian government army's Fifth Corps is facing rebel Muslims backed by Croatian Serbs in attacks from the north and west, while Bosnian Serbs are closing in on Bihac town in the south of the enclave. There was particularly heavy shelling in the area of

Velika Kladusa in the north, where renegade Muslim forces loyal to local tycoon Fikret Abdic have fought battles in the town's streets with the Fifth Corps. The heaviest fighting in

the Bihac pocket is still reported around Velika Kladusa. but BIH (Bosnia army) soldiers are still in control, said Mr. Rısley.

The United Nations be-lieves Mr. Abdic's forces, backed by Croatian Serbs, bave pushed forward their front line in the west of the Bihac enclave by up to 1,500

On the Grabez Plateau,

high ground dominating Bihac town from the east. Bosnian Serb forces were reported to have advanced by up to 1,000 metres.

The United Nations reported that the northern, Muslim-held city of Tuzla, another of the six U.N. safe areas in Bosnia, had come under fire for the fifth successive day, with 27 detonations

reported Friday.
"We remind the Bosnian
Serbs that Tuzla is als a safe area and continued shelling there cannot be tolerated, said U.N spokesman Thant.

The United Nations continued efforts to make contact with the Bosnian Serbs to protest about the fighting. U.N.officials said Bosnian Serb Army commander

General Ratko Miadic had refused to meet U.N. representatives and Bosnian Serb authorities in their "capital" of Pale just outside Sarajevo had turned off their fax machine. "Bosnian Serb behaviour

can only be interpreted as deliberately hostile to the international community," U.N. spokesman said.

An example of that behaviour was demonstrated in the early hours of Saturday morning, when the U.N. said a group of drunken Serb soldiers hijacked two United Nations fuel tankers in Sarajevo. The U.N. said this amounted to "an act of pira-

The Bosnian Serb News

Agency (SRNA) denie Saturday that Bosnian Se-leader Radovan Karadzic ha threatened to bomb th Croatian capital but said th Mr. Karadzic "does not re

out" the possibility. An official at the Croat Defence Ministry said on Frid said that Mr. Karadzic ha Thursday threatened to bla military targets in Zagreb in letter addressed to Croatia Air Force Commander Imp

Agotic.
U.N. Protection Force off cials in Zagreb confirmed the letter, for existence of the letter, fo warded to Croatian authorities by U.N. military obse vers stationed at Banja Luk in northwestern Bosnia.

SRNA, in a report mon tored here, did not deny th existence of the Karadzic le

Quoting the press office of the self-declared Serb Re public of Bosnia, SRNA sai-Mr. Karadzic had "no threatened to bomb Zagreb but does not rule out such possibility if the Republic c Croatia carries out its threa to launch an attack agains the Serb Republic in the re gion of Bihac."

French Defence Ministe Francois Leotard Saturda renewed French criticisms of Washington for undermining an arms embargo on Bosnia Muslims, saying Europea nations would pull troops or together if the embargo co

A woman gets first aid treatment after shells slammed into the centre of the Bosnian capital, injuring several people (AFP photo)

Mitterrand bids farewell to Socialists

LIEVIN France (AFP) — French President François Mitterrand bid farewell to his Socialist Party in this northern mining town Saturday as the party met here to try to define a strategy for presidential elections due next spring.

Mr. Mitterrand. 78. attended a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of a coal mine disaster in which 42 perished, and told an enthusiastic crowd of miners and Socialist delegates: "I made a point of being with you. Here are gathered together the women and the men at whose side I fought for so long and who I am happy to meet again."

The head of state, who appeared in form in spite of his prostate cancer, was welcomed by a miner who survived the disaster, Stephane Szczepanski, who thanked him for "showing you have not forgotten the miners'

The last remaining mine in this once-rich coal region was shut down in 1990.

At a nearby athletics stadium overlooking a landscape of slag heaps and abandoned mines, the Socialist Party congress began a threeday debate Friday on its approach to the almost certain candidacy of centrist Jacques Delors, outgoing president of the European Commission, who is on the

right of the party.
Mr. Mitterrand has strongly backed Mr. Delors to succeed him and his visit to Lievin, a bastion of socialism which voted for him by more than 80 per cent in 1988 when he was elected for a second seven-year term, was intended as a symbol. But on Saturday he gave

no hint of who was his favourite for the presidential contest, saying "elect who you like, preferably a Socialist, it would be better." The head of state did not

actually attend the Socialist congress, but most of the 2,000 participants turned out to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Mitterrand's aides said that rumours he planned to

resign early were "baseless," following the clearest indications yet by Mr. Delors this week that he will stand. He said he would let it be known one way or another before Christmas. The rumours said that Mr.

Mitterrand, whose presidential duties sap his energy, might resign early at a time when Mr. Delors is riding high in opining polls and the right is badly split by rivalry for the presidency between Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac.

Since its rout in legislative elections in March 1993, the Socialists have adopted a leftist strategy under First Secretary Henri Emmanuelli. but must try to reconcile this with strong opinion poll sup-port for Mr. Delors in the presidential polls next spring.

He is their only hope of returning to government. Last year's legislatives left them with only 53 seats in a 577-member National Assembly. Mr. Delors, a card-

carrying Socialist, is no attending the congress. Mr. Emmanuelli said in a

interview Friday that the par ty's leftist tact was in no wa incompatible with a Delor candidacy and, addressin the conference, he called o Socialists to prepare to "re new with victory." Mr. Delors, outgoing pres

ident of the European Com mission, is on the socia democratic right wing of th party while Mr. Emmanuel has been pushing a leftist lin since he took over last Junfrom former Prime Ministe Michel Rocard, who resigne after a poor showing in Euro

pean elections. The party will also have to talk its way around voting accords reached with the Communists in municipa elections due next June.

Under the accords, Social ists and Communists have agreed on joint lists of candi dates in the first round o voting, but the Communist are none too happy abou Mr. Delors as a presidentia candidate.

Minister critiçises Mitterrand over Rwanda

PARIS (R) — A French minister has stirred fresh controversy over France's role in Rwanda by accusing President Francois Mitterrand of favouring the discredited former Hutu-dominated govern-

Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre, a doctor appointed to the centre-right cabinet a week ago after his predecessor resigned over a corruption probe, said the Socialist president's attitude made it hard to reach a consensus policy on Rwanda. Dr. Debre said in an inter-

view with RFI Radio Friday that "President Mitterrand is very attached to the former Rwandan President (Juvenal) Habyarimana and his family and everything the former regime represented.

So it is difficult to have a policy of consensus." The new, Tutsi-dominated

government accuses France of undermining its efforts to rebuild a country destroyed by civil war and the genocide of up to one million people between April and July this year blamedı on Hutu

The explosion of violence followed Mr. Habyarimana's death in April in a rocket attack on his plane. Dr. Debre said however

French policy over Rwanda

was not blocked and that he would seek meetings with all French experts on Rwanda in coming days and would also talk to Mr. Mitterrand. Officials at the Cooperation Ministry declined comment on Dr. Debre's re-

marks. Dr. Debre became widely known to the public when, as a doctor, he headed a team which operated on Mr. Mitterrand for prostate cancer in 1992 and 1994. France sent 2,500 troops to help stop killings in Rwanda in the summer, and they were

widely credited with saving thousands of lives.
When the troops first went
in, critics accused Paris of acting with neo-imperialist motives to shield an ally, the former Hutu-led govern-

ment.

Rwanda to a Franco-African summit in the south-west French city of Biarritz last week. Mr. Habyarimana had been a feted participant at the annual summits from

At last week's meeting, Mr. Mitterrand shrugged off criticism over Rwanda while justifying sending troops.

"France, every time it is called, tries (to counter the threat of war) with discretion and with respect for the sovereignty of all countries,"

Meanwhile, Zaire's cabinet has hit out at the de facto presence of a Rwandan government in exile on its soil and told refugees camping in the east of the country that they must refrain from all political activity.

In a statement . late Friday after its weekly session, the cabinet said it was outraged by the existence in eastern Zaire of a shadow government formed by Hutu ministers who fled when the Rwanda Patriotic Front won the France did not invite civil war in July.

"No Rwandan government in exile can be set up or can operate on Zairean soil," the cabinet said in a ruling read on state television. It reminded refugees that they had been granted merely

provisional asylum while Zaire waited for the international community to find them a more permanent home and called for an end to all political activity in the "The cabinet solemnly in

vites the Rwandan refugees to refrain from all politica activities and declarations." it said.

Ensconced in hotels, private villas and religious cen-tres in Goma and Bukavu former ministers and oficials have established a paralle administration working hand in hand with exiled army

chiefs and militia men. These men, many of then accused by human rights groups of masterminding the genocide of Tutsis regularly give speeches in the refugee camps exhorting restless Hutus not to go home.

tion of their duty in a country where voting is mandatory.

HANOI (Agencies) — A re-cord number of non-Communist candidates are standing in Sunday's provincial and local elections which are being hailed by officials as a step toward greater

Yet there are also a record

33 self-proclaimed "independents," including six in Ho Chin Minh City. The author-

Described in official parlance as the "voice of the people," the councils are

People's Committee, Truong Mr. Jiang and his 150-

Jakarta.

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Chance must not slip

THE BLOODY clash that took place between the Palestinian police and Hamas activists in Gaza on Friday and claimed the lives of scores of Palestinians and injured hundreds of others should be an eye-opener as to what could be expected to happen in not only the Gaza Strip but also the West Bank in the months ahead. Besides being the first armed clash of its kind between Palestinians in which the police force belonging to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) fired at defiant demonstrators armed with machine guns, it is also the first open challenge to the PLO leadership by some Gazans. The main concern is whether the killing and looting in the Gaza Strip is a prelude to a civil war that could derail the peace talks between Israel and the PLO altogether.

We believe the root problem for the deterioration in Palestinian ranks stems first and foremost from Israel's undue feetdragging on its peace negotiations with the Palestinian side. The second immediate factor contributing to the new alarming situation is the unfulfilled promises from the international community to provide funds for both building national Palestinian institutions and meeting the needs of poor people still living in despair and deprivation.

Minister of International Cooperation in the PNA Nabil Shaath was right on the mark just before the clash Friday when he said the authority simply cannot disarm Islamic groups "due to Israel's failure to respect the Palestinian-Israeli agreement." This Israeli procrastination, Shaath went on to say, has meant that the PNA lacks "any public support to disarm the opposition groups of take tough measures against them."

This is in essence the quandary in which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat finds himself in the face of mounting pressures from within and outside the Palestinian territories. Still all these negative factors, be they Israeli made or internationally connected, cannot absolve the Palestinians themselves from the responsibility towards the recent setbacks. As long as the Palestinians are deeply divided, there is really not much that any country or group of countries can do to save them from siege and infighting. The Palestinians now have the chance of a lifetime to create their own independent national institutions on the way, hopefully, to statehood. They must not waste that chance by playing into the hands of their enemies. Otherwise the train would pass them as it did on so many occasions before.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday blamed the violence in Gaza, Friday, on the Israeli government's continued pressure on the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to crack down on the opposition. It said that the bloodshed serves the Israeli occupation authorities and helps achieve Zionist objectives. There is no doubt that the Israeli-U.S. adamant stand against the Palestinians' regaining their full rights and establishing an independent Palestinian state lies behind the tension in the self-rule and the occupied territories, said the daily. Israel is committing a grave blunder by instigating the PNA against Hamas and the other opposition groups in Gaza, but it can ensure a quick end to the violence by ending the Jewish settlements and by terminating occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said the daily. Blocking financial aid to the PNA, seizing Arab lands, demolishing Arab homes and building new Jewish settlements can by no means help end the violence which remains Israel's responsibility, said the paper. The paper said the PNA and the opposition ought to embark on democratic means to end their disputes and decide on joint action that would end occupation by

NAZIH QOUSUS, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday focused public attention on the damages that were inflicted on the roads, bridges and culverts by the recent rains and flood, blaming the contractors for their faulty work. The writer said the highway to Jerash, with its pridges and culverts, was supposed to be capable of withstanding winter storms but it collapsed when the first rains came. The infrastructure was supposed to have been laid after thorough and careful plans by public works engineers but everyone was surprised to see that the supposedly modern highway fell victim to rain water even before the actual rainy season started, said the writer. Definitely there is a fault in the infrastructure and the Ministry of Public Works and its contractors are to blame for the situation, continued the writer. He said that regretiably. Jordanian citizens have been noticing that projects carried out by foreign firms have a longer life than hose executed by Jordanian contractors, adding that it is largely because those responsible for the faulty roads are never held accountable for their actions. Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Slashing import taxes

SUDDENLY, the government announced last week a sweeping reduction of custom tax rates on cars and many other items. The minister of finance gave two justifications for the decision: First to alleviate the burden on the citizen, and second to satisfy the requirements of the economic adjustment programme supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The prime minister added a third justification, which is to preempt smuggling, and a fourth, to correct distortions caused by the introduction of the sales

For several months, people were expecting a decision regarding custom taxes on imported cars. The rumour all but freezed the car market. During the time of nervous waiting, the minister of finance was not in a position to confirm or deny the unofficial reports about an impending reduction. He was not sure whether the Council of Ministers will uphold or reject his move to reduce tax rates

Finally the Economic Ministerial Committee met and discussed proposals to reduce the tax. It approved the reduction. Some members of the committee claim that the approval was confined to custom tax on cars only. They were later surprised to find that the Council of Ministers did not only approve a substantial tax reduction on cars, but went on to slash almost in half the import duty applicable to many other items, mostly luxurious goods, such as nuts, cosmetics, carpets, marble, artificial flowers. chandeliers and various electrical equipment.

The government's radical decision was never discussed thoroughly within the government or in business circles. Consumers were also taken by surprise. It just emerged out

The cost to the treasury will not be felt immediately. On the contrary, the remaining six weeks of 1994 may witness extensive flow of revenue due to the previously delayed purchases which will now be transacted. Car dealers are expected to empty their present stocks still held in free zones. But the impact of the tax reduction will be felt in 1995 and beyond.

Loss of revenue may be in the order of JD 50 million or 1.25 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) when the budget is required by the adjustment programme to reduce the deficit in 1995 by an equal amount. It is not known yet how the Ministry of Finance will make up for this substantial loss and generate the extra revenue

required to reduce the deficit.

To the best of my knowledge, the measure taken was not specifically required by the economic adjustment programme. It is true that the programme calls for lower taxes on imports, but there is no commitment to do anything about it in 1994 or 1995. The government did not commit itself to that in the last letter of intent and was not pressured by the

M. KAHIL

Admittedly, the programme calls for a ceiling of 50 per cent custom protection, but only on the longer term. The programme does not intervene when the higher tax is imposed not for protection but merely to generate revenue, as in the case of goods that have no domestic equivalent. Even if there is a competing domestic product, the programme tolerates import tax higher than 50 per cent provided the local product is taxed by the difference so that the net protection of local production does not exceed the ceiling of 50 per cent.

The claim that the purpose of the decision is to help the average citizen by lowering prices does not stand, because all of the goods that will benefit from the tax reduction are not meant for the limited income group. The major beneficiaries are the rich, who do not need, or deserve, governmental support of prices.

Even if the move was politically motivated to give citizens some economic benefits of peace, it will not serve this purpose because the man in the street will not benefit.

A moderate reduction of import tax on cars was understandable after peace in order to match the rates prevailing in the West Bank and Israel. Otherwise, many Jordanians with relatives living in the West Bank or Israel can use those relatives to buy cars there and bring them later to Jordan. We would understand reduction of the extremely high rates applicable to cigarettes and alcohols to avoid tax evasion and smuggling, but to slash the rates on most luxurious commodities was beyond our comprehen-

When inflation rate is less than 4 per cent, reduction of prices is not a priority. Yet prices may not decline proportionately because part of the reduction will be added to the profit margins as the current prices are absorbed by the market and accepted by the consumers. However, even if prices decline a little bit, the poor will not benefit because of the nature of the commodities concerned, which are beyond the means of the poor and will remain so.

As far as sales tax is concerned, the plan was to adjust custom duty up or down, as the case may be, to neutralise the impact of shifting from consumption tax to sales tax with different rates in some cases. The purpose is to maintain stability of prices in the market. Unfortunately, the government failed to do so simultaneously with enactment of the sales tax law. What it did last week does not fall under this concept. If anything, it created addition-

More importantly, the custom reduction will increase imports and worsen the balance of trade already in big deficit. The balance of payments will deteriorate, and the foreign exchange reserves will be brought under pressure.

At mid-term, Rabin pressures Palestinians for political gains

By Michael Jansen

IT IS not surprising that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should wait until now to announce that Israel would not permit the Palestinians to hold elections in the territories until the PLO removed anti-Israel clauses from its convenant. If raising this demand undermines his agreements with the Palestinians, he can still claim victory in making enough progress to-wards peace with the rest of the Arab World, proving to the Israeli electorate that he will, once again, be a worthy candidate for prime minister

in 1996. And it is ironic that he should choose to make this statement, which amounts to reneging on the agreements he has signed with the PLO thereby putting at risk the entire peace process - en route to California where he received the Medal of Freedom presented by the Ronald Reagan Foundation.

The PLO and Israel have been discussing the elections for many months now, the latest phase of discussions coinciding with the signing, at Wadi Araba, of the Jordan-Israel treaty. Israel has consistently stalled on the elec-tions, raising one condition or another, while the PLO has fitfully pursued its goal of holding the poll by the end of the year, in line with the delayed timetable of imple-mentation of the Oslo accord. This is but the latest device to stall the elections and block the implementa-

tion of self-rule. In an interview with Israel Radio Israel's Economic Planning Minister Shimon Shitreet said that the PLO could not expect Israel to keep its side of the Oslo and Cairo agreements if the Palestinians failed to implement theirs: "One part is the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant" to cancel phrases objectionable to Israel, which, he said, is "more and more necessary" because Palestinians have king "statements which are contrary to this commitment." Israel cites the use by Palestinian police trainees of slogans calling for the liberation of cities in Israel "proper" as the reason for insisting on amendment of the covenant.

However, the PLO has made no formal, written commitment in either the Oslo or Cairo accords to amend the PLO Convenant. The covenant is, in fact, not mentioned in either document. The only written reference to the covenant comes in the PLO's letter in the exchange of letters with Israel recognising, on the PLO's part, "the right of Israel to exist in peace and security" and, on Israel's part, "the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people." In its letter the PLO affirmed "that the articles in the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist are now inoperative and no longer valid. This being so, amendment of the charter should not be a problem. This sentence formalised

the statement made by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in December 1988 when he said that the articles in the covenant objectonable to Israel were (and be used the French word) "caduc," or absolete, actually "decayed."

An authoritative Palesti-nian source told this writer that there had, however, been an "unwritten gentlemen's agreement" between the PLO and Israel requiring the abrogation of the offending phrases in the charter. The Israelis, the source said, wanted Arafat to honour this commitment within three months of the signing of the Oslo Accord in September 1993 while it was eventually agreed that this should be accomplished within the year
September 1993.
September 1994.

But this "gentlemen's agreement "has nothing to do with the binding commitments made by both sides in the formal, written Oslo accord and Cairo agreements. And the Israelis should not be allowed, by the Palestinians and the world community, to renege on their written commitments by claiming the PLO has failed to fulfill its commitment in

commitment it is doubtful that the Palestinians, in their present parlous circumstances could honour. In order to do this Arafat Lant

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will have to call into session the. Palestine National Council and secure a twothirds majority. This majority would be extremely difficult to obtain becaue it must be two-thirds of the full PNC and not just of those attending the special meeting. Although Arafat is expected to "pack" such a council with his supporters by appointing the 180 new members from the West Bank and Gaza, he would have to secure the support of another 220 of the 400-odd members from the disapora. This would be very difficult to do. particularly since 70 have already signed a memorandum opposing abrogating the sensitive clauses in the convenant. The Palestinian informant said that if Arafat won his two-thirds majority it would only be by the "skin of his teeth." The PLO chairman does not like to leave such important matters to slim chance. And Rabin is prepared to take advantage of Arafat's week position and, perhaps, inability to deliver on the "gentlemen's agreement" in order to promote his own political

"Pessimists who feared the Gaza-Jericho First Accord would amount to

'Gaza-Jericho First and Last' could be proven right. And if this happens the Jordan-Israel treaty could be at risk and the entire peace process torpedoed because, in the final analysis, there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestine problem is resolved to the satisfaction of a majority of Palestinians."

Rabin's ultimatum makes it clear that he is not prepared to go beyond the first, territorial phase of the selfrule process because, according to the Oslo Accords, Israel is required to pull its force "outside populated areas after the entry into force of this Declaration of Principles, and not later than the eve of elections for the

Self-rule Council.." For Israel to meet this commitment it would have to withdraw its forces from all? major Palestinian population centres in the West Bank -Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron - as well as smaller town. and villages. Rabin's government is not prepared to do this, the major obstacle to such withdrawal being illegal Israeli settlers in Nablus and Hebron and Ramallah's position as the northern gateway to Jerusalem.

Hebron is, of course, the most sensitive of the settler locations since 400 Israelis live there among more than 100,000 angry Palestinians and some 4,000 Israeli troops are required to provide security for these settlers.

The well-known Israeli maverick, Dr. Israel Shahak. told this writer some time ago that the settlers in the centre of Hebron had, over the years, amassed a vast arsenal in their homes and were prepared to start a "civil war among the Jews" in order to defend their position. They could do this if Rabin were to redeploy the troops guarding their neighbourhood. Unwill-ing to court insurrection or mutiny within his army. Rabin is seeking any excuse to avoid implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

This means that pessimists who feared the Gaza-Jericho First Accord would amount to "Gaza-Jericho First and Last" could be proven right. And if this happens the Jordan-Israel treaty could be at risk and the entire peace process torpedoed because, in the final analysis, there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestine problem is resolved to the satisfaction of a majority of Palesti-

Arafat faces major crisis; peace process could be threatened

By Nicolas B. Tatro The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM Yasser Arafat, who survived wars in Lebanon and Jordan, is on the brink of a new conflict — this one with Islamic militants in the Gaza

Strip.
"It is the beginning of a civil war," said Dr. Ali Jebrai, a political science professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank.

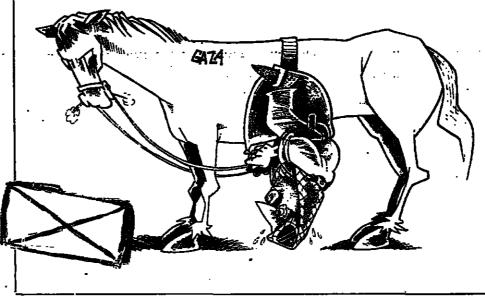
Politically, the PLO leader is weaker than he has ever been because he has been unable to make good on promises of a better economic future for Palestinians as a result of the peace process.

Militarily, however, Mr. Arafat has power in his corner in the form of 10.000 well-armed police — all for-mer guerrilla fighters from Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq. Libya and other Arab

countries. Hamas has a few hundred armed followers, most of them lightly armed and they are no match for the experienced PLO fighters — many of whom survived the 1982 war in Lebanon.

Bullets alone, however. will probably not be enough to sustain Mr. Arafat's sixmonth-old autonomy government which came to power as a result of the peace agreement with Israel signed Sept. 13, 1993, on the White House

"I don't think 10,000 Palestinian police can control the Gaza Strip. Arafat must remember that most of these police have relatives. I am sure they will think twice before shooting their own people," said Dr. Jerbawi. Anger boiled over in the



Gaza Strip after the PLO police opened fire on worshippers at the Palestine Mosque during Friday noon

"Arafat traitor" shouted angry demonstrators. Wall siogans vowed revenge against Mr. Araft's govern-ment and loudspeakers in Gaza mosques compared the killings to the Hebron mosque massacre last February in which a Jewish settler shot to death 29 Muslims.

Despite such anger, Hamas activists say privately they are not looking for a showdown with Mr. Arafat but that they will demand a stiff political price for a "sulha," Arabic for the settlement of a blood Hamas insiders suggest

that Mr. Arafat would not only have to fire top police officials responsible for the mosque shooting but might also have to freeze the peace process with Israel which the militants oppose. If there is no settlement,

Dr. Jerbawi said Islamic militants could unleash suicide bomb attacks on Palestinian targets as well as Israeli. Hanan Ashrawi, Mr. Arafat's former spokeswoman,

said in an interview with Associated Press Television that the internal warfare between PLO and Islamic groups could spread to the West Bank where one million Palestinians live. "Let's hope we haven't

reached the point of no return, the point of total deterioration and chaos," she said. Adding that violence would have a "drastic effect on the peace process."

Mr. Arafat survived a bloody civil war with Jordan in 1970 and militia battles in Beirut in the 1980s. But he

has a tormidable political opponent in the wellfinanced Islamic militants. In contrast to Mr. Arafat's

government which has failed to deliver new roads, sewerage and housing, the fundamentalist Hamas organisation has carefully built up infrastructure such as health clinics, schools, community centres and youth clubs.

That has given the Islamic militants credibility while Mr. Arafat has little to show, complaining in an interview with the Associated Press last week that he had received only 6 per cent of the \$690 million pledged by international donors. "There is increasing anger

and discontent with the peace process, with the way things have been stalling and with the fact that there are no real results on the ground," Mrs. Ashrawi said.

Solomon Islands political crisis nears an end

By Belinda Goldsmith

SYDNEY - From one prime minister, to two prime ministers, to no prime minister — that's South Pacific

The political upheavals in the Solomon Islands in the past three weeks have intrigued even seasoned obser-

vers of the region.

A month ago Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilly was leading the tropical island nation of 320,000 people — only 18 months into a fouryear term but losing popularity daily for his strong stance against foreign logging com-

Government members began defecting in droves. On Oct. 13 Governor-General Moses Pitakaka sacked Mr. Hilly, who no longer had majority support in parliament, and appointed opposition leader and former Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni as caretaker leader. But Mr. Hilly, usually a

quiet, reserved man, refused to step down, leaving the Solomon Islands with two prime ministers.

Mr. Hilly appealed to the courts, an action which bemused voters who take political change in the typically relaxed style the peoples of Melanesia are known for.

The Solomon Islands court of appeal overruled Mr. Hilly's sacking and Mr. Mamaloni's appointment as caretaker became invalid. But a few days later the

supreme court overturned the earlier ruling and sup-ported Mr. Hilly's sacking. Mr. Hilly's grip on power quickly weakened in the political corridors of Honiara, a one-traffic-light town, and he announced his resignation on Oct. 31.

A parliamentary vote on Monday will decide whether Mr. Mamaloni or the nation's first governor-general, Sir Baddeley Devesi, will be the new prime minister. Observers have tipped Mr.

Mamaioni, a mercurial character who has been prime minister twice before, most recently from 1989 to 1993. "Mamaloni is a charismatic

figure, very popular at gras-sroots level with a mischievous sense of humour who like jokes and playing tricks," a diplomat in Honiara told Reuters.

"But he is also extremely moody and unpredictable and in the past has fallen out with the other governments."

Mr. Mamaloni's probable return will not be welcommed by the neighbours of the

archipelago of several hundred islands that was invaded and occupied by the Japanese during World War II. Mr. Mamaloni has already

indicated he may recognise secession for the nearby Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, where rebels of the Bougainville revolutionary army have been fighting Papua New Guinea troops for six years.

He is also unlikely to con-tinue Mr. Hilly's battle against logging companies in the Solomons, a former British protectorate which gained independence in 1978.

At this year's South Pacific forum meeting in Brisbane, it. was revealed that revenues of up to Australian dollars 55 million (\$40 million) almost half the value of the Solomon Island's total exports - were lost in 1993, this unwritten agreement, a Crescent which will run until Nov. 23.

The following is the text of the speech with which her Royal

Highness Princess Sarvath opened the exhibition of calligraphy on Nov. 16. The exhibition was organised by the Joternational Committee of the Red Cross and Red

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I am privileged to be asked by the International Commit-tee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent to speak at the opening of this calligraphy exhibition, which represents Arab and Islamic perspec-

tives on human rights. It is surprising how often I am asked to speak about "Islam and Human Rights". as if the two were in some way contradictory, and need to be reconciled. It is almost as if a choice must be made between the competing

alternatives of Islam, on the one hand, and human rights, on the other. Yet, one of the distinguishing features of the human rights discourse is its secularity. By this I do not mean that human rights lack a spiritual content, but rather that they transcend questions of religious orientation and are acceptable to followers of all faiths. In this sense, one may work for human rights while believing in a religion such as Christianity, Judaism,

depicted as an exception. It is sometimes portrayed as a supremely intolerant religion, a monolithic creed that socially retrogressive and irredeemably oppressive. According to proponents of this view. Islam and human rights do indeed embody two fundamentally irreconcilable visions of the world and humanity's place in it.

But this is not what the

Prophet Mohammad taught or what the Koran prescribed. Although it message is universal, Islam arose as a response to a particular set of historical circumstances. In its rejection of 7th century Arabia, Islam rejected slavery, infanticide, idolatry, in-

the oppression of women and minorities. In today's lanphage therefore, it was a social and ethical reform movement, guaranteeing for the first time basic rights and freedoms to all. The hostility that greeted the early Muslims speaks eloquently of the power of its challenge to the accepted orthodoxies. And the fact that its first converts were women and slaves the traditionally oppressed tells us something of its prog-

I believe that Islam preempted the contemporary human rights philosophy in many areas. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 30 articles, lays out

ressive. liberating message

a core minimum standard for human life, and for every article of the declaration there are analogues in the Koran, the Hadith and the Sunna. More importantly, the same belief in the fundamental value of human life is the essence of both the declaration and the Koran.

'Islam, being a social and ethical reform

movement, guarantees rights and freedoms to all'

The central theme of the Koran, and most Hadith, is the basic equality of mankind, deriving from the unity of our common creator. For Islam preaches above all the dignity of each and every human soul. The Prophet Mohammed is reliably reputed to have said:

"All people are equal. They are as equal as the teeth of merit of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a white over a black person, or a male over a female."

This same basic equality, this same inalienable entitlement to'be free from discrimination and unlawful interference, also lies at the very heart of the Universal Declaration of Human

However, there is a world of difference between noble aspiration and compromised practice, although the tension between the real and the ideal is hardly confined to the world of Islam alone. When we consider the Muslim World, we cannot help but see widespread inequality

human rights violations that cry out to be rectified, usually as a product of ingrained local social mores and culture rather than any tenets of the religion which itself is often imperfectly interpreted in society.

Despite all assertions to the contrary, religion remains a powerful force in the daily lives of people, wherever they are. We should be forging a global consensus that values the beliefs and participation of all groups. Social, political and economic differences have sometimes obscured the common ground, but the task of consensus-building is now pa-

ramount. Our religious tradi-tions, Islam included, can play a central role in securing worldwide agreement on cardinal principles such as the universality of human rights and the indivisibility of all

Islam, then, is not the exception. It is a diverse and living tradition that should and, I believe, will play its part in the further develop. ment of human rights. A clear proof of its ability to do so surely lies in this remarkable exhibition of calligraphy, which so strikingly portrays the best in Islamic and Arab thought. With that in mind, I am delighted to de

Moscow motorists lack petrol, get more pumps

By Jean-Christophe Peuch Reuter

MOSCOW - "Russia is plagued by three calamities bureaucrats, bad roads and petrol," according to Ilya Kolyerov.

The 28-year-old businessman, a portly bearded figure, admits he can do nothing to ease the pains of bureaucracy, but he does plan to make driving around Moscow much less of a nightmare.

Mr. Kolyerov's firm is one of several, including the giant Lukoil conglomerate, the plan to transform the city with a network of netrol stations, consigning to history the ubiquitous madside queues at old Soviet-era pumps.

Western oil companies like Royal Dutch/Shell and British Petroleum also envisage building their own networks of petrol pumps, but so far they have been discouraged by bureaucra-

TOKYO (R) - In the bat-

tle for the leadership of the

global underworld, the

main players -- Italy's

mafia, China's triads.

America's mob and South

America's drug lords — are

being pushed harder and

In the last 25 years,

Japanese crime syndicates

have led an unparalleled

push into Asia, Europe, North and South America,

and recently into the former

Stressing the importance

of preserving the yakuza's centuries old ideals — giri

(duty) and minjo (human-

ity) — their leaders have

turned a sprawling band of

pimps, hit-men and drug

pushers into one of the

criminal organisations.

world's most sophisticated

"The yakuza are one of

the world's major crime

syndicates without a

doubt," said David Kaplan,

co-author of "Yakuza," one

of the few books published

overseas about Japan's

underworld.

Soviet Union.

results reliate the sale harder by Japan's cash-rich

tic obstacles.

Moscow's only foreign petrol station was opened in 1991 by a subsidiary of Italy's AGIP SPA.

The Russian capital's frustrated army of motorists has grown by more than 350,000 in the past two years and is expected to reach 1.5 million by the end of this year.

But the city of about nine million people has only 214 petrol stations, and a third of those are lying idle with broken-down pumps.

Fuel supply problems were made worse this November by technical problems at the Moscow oil refinery, forcing motorists to queue for hours.

Many prefer to fill up canisters with supplies sold directly from tankers parked beside makeshift placards advertising whatever grade of petrol is on

Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Shafranik and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said

Despite its global pre-

sence, little is known about

the yakuza outside Japan

beyond the cliches about

Japanese mobsters' multi-

coloured tattoos, and he

fingers they lop off and

present to their bosses as a

Dubro and I) have traced

the yakuza around the

world, across Asia and the

Pacific, in Brazil, and

Europe — and nobody ever

knew who they were," Ka-

Founded some 300 years

ago, the yakuza — literally

trash in Japanese - had

forged cast-iron ties with

Japan's politicians,

businessmen, judiciary and

strength at home they be-

gan their drive overseas in

earnest in the early 1970s, first targetting Korea and the Philippines, then Hawaii and California be-

fore moving in on the rest

of North and South Amer-

"Then came along the

ica and Europe.

Capitalising on their

police by World War II.

plan told Reuters.

'(Yakuza co-author Alec

rol stations would be built in Moscow soon under a special programme.

According to some estimates, Moscow needs about 400 petrol stations to meet its demand. Mr. Luzhkov said the city needed 250 modern stations, with car washes, shops, lavatories and garages for minor re-

Companies taking part in the race to satisfy the obviously thirsty market include Lukoil, Russia's big-

gest oil conglomerate. Lukoil Vice-President Vladislav Bazhenov said that, as part of a plan by the Moscow city government, the company had been given permission to build 18 petrol stations and five or six should be working by early 1995. "We asked for 45, but we

would like to build stations that fit in with all the rules of city design for the next 20-30 years," he said. Lukoil opened its first

mid-1980s) which was the

gasoline on the old fire and

markedly strengthened all

of the trends towards inter-

nationalisation." said Ful-

bright scholar Kaplan, who

is in Tokyo updating his

During the so-called bub-

ble years, the yakuza bor-

rowed heavily from Japan's

then-almighty banks and

put their drive overseas into

The yakuza also used

cheap loans to diversify

aggressively into legitimate

business, including con-struction, real estate de-

velopment and financial

activities both at home and

Police estimate Japan's

90,000 yakuza now make

around one trillion yen

But one expert on the

underground economy,

professor Takatsugu Nato

of Tokyo International Uni-

versity, has said total in-

come could be as high as seven trillion yen (\$71.35

(\$10.19 billion) a year.

abroad.

Japan's mob closes in on global underworld crown

a Western-style forecourt and facilities, in early

Mr. Kolyerov doesn't have the same financial muscle as Lukoil, but his company is moving fast to capture the Moscow market, which accounts for about 10 per cent of Russia's consumption of oil pro-

"One has sometimes the false impression that the petrol market in Russia is just for crooks or big companies," Mr. Kolyerov said.
"We have decided to enter this market for good and for

Since its founding two years ago, Ilya Kolyerov Co. has built 11 new petrol stations fitted with the latest Russian equipment bought in Rostov-on-the-Don and in Serpukhov, a small industrial city south of

Mr. Kolyerov says more than 14,000 clients use his stations regularly, filling up

In comparison, Japan's

Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the

world's largest, employs some 19,000 people and

made current profits of just

37.66 billion yen (\$383.9

million) in the 1993 busi-

After the glory years of the bubble, the yakuza suf-

fered a sharp drop in re-

venues, like the banks

which funded their earlier

expansion and the rest of

like everyone in Japan did

by the recession," said Ka-

Police insist the passage

of a tough anti-gang low

two-and-a-half years ago

also hit the yakuza hard.

The law criminalised ex-

tortion and violent debt col-

lection, yakuza mainstays

But critics of the law in-

sist it has pushed many

yakuza into a corner and is

responsible for the unpara-

lleled rise in drug and gun

smuggling and violent

crime, especially against

business executives, that

for more than 200 years.

"The yakuza got hit hard

corporate Japan.

ness year.

with high-standard petrol supplied by the Moscow refinery. Only high-octane petrol comes from Ufa, the capital of the semi-autonomous Republic of Bashkortostan.

"At the beginning, we had many more suppliers, but we have progressively eliminated those who supplied us with lower quality petrol," one company official said

Mr. Kolyerov's plans for the near future include building an additional 200 petrol stations in the centre of Moscow and in outlying

Asked about potential competitors on the petrol market, he smiled disdain-

fully.
"So far there is no competition, it is only beginning," he said, as if unaware of the plans of Lukoil and another big company Hermes-Moskva.

Last year, Hermes-Moskva was given a licence to build 17 petrol stations.

has caused an outcry in

Moriharu Hiragimoto,

director of JSAS company,

the only private firm in

Japan specialising in the

protection of company ex-

ecutives, told Reuters last

month that the number of companies asking for help

from JSS was up sharply.

Most of a spate of recent

killings — 23 people dead in

190 shootings since January

- were related to the yaku-

Commentators now say

the yakuza is likely to be-

Japan.

Sicilian Catholic priests take on Mafia

By Philip Pullella Reuter

PALERMO, Sicily -When he was nine, Alessandro pushed doses of heroin for the Mafia on the mean streets of Palermo's Borgo Vecchio neighbourhood.

Now an older and wider 11 in a city where kids grow up fast, the boy changed his ways thanks to Father Paolo Turturro, a priest who has made it his mission to get the children before the Mafia does, or get them back if he fails the first

The Mafia's response to his work and that of other priests in Sicily has shown that the crime organisation may now consider the church, rather than the state, its worst enemy.

"What is the Mafia?" the 48-year-old Roman Catholic priest asked a group of neighbourhood children eating a free lunch of rice and beans in his Santa Lucia church one recent afternoon.

They answered in an ear splitting cacophony as if responding to an arithmetics question they had been asked thousands of times: "the Mafia is death."

Pope John Paul threw his weight behind priests like Turturro when he visited Sicily this month and told mafiosi for the second time in as many years that their earthly power would not save them for God's final judgment for their crimes.

The Pope paid tribute to Giuseppe Puglisi, an anti-Mafia priest killed last year in Palermo, and vowed that the Sicilian Catholic church would not buckle to mob threats.

But during the Pope's visit, the Mafia demonstrated its power to intimidate by sending another priest a macabre warning reminiscent of the film "The Godfather" — a lamb with its throat slit and a note reading "you'll end up

the same way." Father Turturro's chess game with the mob for the souls of Sicily's children is played out in the neighbourhood around Palermo's Ucciardone prison, where many mafiosi have done time. The priest keeps children

off the streets and hopefully out of the mob's labour pool by giving them a place to play and eat after school. One of his trademarks is giving a soccer ball to any child who gives him a toy gun or a real one.

The neighbourhood's mothers, some of whose husbands are in Ucciardone prison for Mafia crimes. help with the cooking.

Priests like Turturro were once a rare breed in Palermo and Sicily, where the local Roman Catholic church for years turned a blind eye to the Mafia or issued token condemna-

Cardinal Ernesto Ruffini, Palermo's bishop from 1946 to 1967, was so bent on forging an anti-communist strategy with Sicily's Christian Democrats that he claimed the Mafia was a

It became increasingly difficult for Cardinal Ruffini to defend his contention in the 1960s, when the Mafia first used car bombs in its war to control the lucrative building contracts at the start of Palermo's

urban sprawl. Today, support from the Pope and Palermo Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo have encouraged anti-Mafia priests to speak out and often put their lives on the

Their straight talk has forced them to live what Italians call "an armour-plated life" made up of police escorts, bulletproof cars and obscene phone calls in the dead of night.

When Fr. Turturro walks the 50 metres from his church to the basketball court, one of the 12 soldiers outside readies his rifle and accompanies him. Fr. Puglisi, who did not

have an escort, was shot in the back of the neck in Palermo's rough and tumble Brancaccio neighbourhood in September 1993 as he returned home at night. In one of the recent

warnings the Mafia sent to

Sicilian churchmen, a plaque commemorating Fr. Puglisi in a town near Palermo was destroyed. Church officials transferred another priest temporarily to Rome for his own protection.

"These are messages to the church and the Pope," Fr. Turturro said. "They are saying 'be careful, don't talk too much'." Saverio Lodato, author

of the new book "From the Altar Against the Mafia", said the Sicilian church has become a new barometer of anti-Mafia sentiment because it is finally free of political links. "For 50 years the church

in Sicily was at best neutral with regard to the Mafia. It closed one eye and often both. Its formal anti-Mafia propouncements often were platitudes," Mr. Lodato told Reuters. Mr. Lodato, a leftist

journalist who has written six books on the Mafia, said its ability to help deliver the vote for anti-communist parties, such as the Christian Democrats, temperedchurch criticism of the mob in the past.

"After the fall of communism the church finally realised that without its anti-communist element the Mafia is nothing more than the crude power of weapons

and money," Mr. Lodato "This finally liberated the church and allowed it to view the Mafia as just a criminal phenomenon," he said. "This has led the

Mafia to see the church for the first time as its mortal enemy. This never happened before. "This is why the Mafia's recent threats and intimida-

tions were aimed principally at the church," Mr. Lodato said.

Father Gino Sachetti, the priest who received the lamb with its throat slit in the town of Termini Imerese during the Pope's visit, is chaplain of the town's prison and head of a drug rehabilitation centre. He vowed to continue his

"I am worried," he said. "But I won't leave."

The talk of Awlad Al Sheik: Let there be light

By Dalia Bailgh The Associated Press

AWLAD EL SHEIK Egypt — The flat blue and white panels atop the sandcoloured bedouin houses look totally alien in the stark landscape of this tiny desert village.
But they have catapulted

its inhabitants into the 20th century. The tribal life little changed for centuries has been given a jolt — solar energy technology has brought electricity for the "It is as though we were

dead and have become alive, as though we were buried under the ground and have been dug out," said Karima El Senoussy her brightly embroidered tobe contrasting with a wizened peace bronzed by the scorching sun. For the village's 450 resi-

dents, the flourescent lights with white plastic shades lican they now stay up at aight seeing friends and relatives. They talk of buying a television but have yet to realise what other changes might come. They have a battery-powered radio now. Electrification of the Western desert village 160 bilometres northwest of Cairo is part of a project that the government hopes

can be expanded to dozens of other remote villages.

Most of Egypt's 58 million inhabitants have electricity, especially along the Nile and the great river's delta, generated by power plants tueled by natural gas and by hydroelectric sta-

But the government is looking for other sources to meet the combined problems of rapidly increasing population, decreasing natural gas and petroleum resources, and rising pollution. Solar energy is on the top of the list.

Solar energy technology has expanded tremendously, and the price of the units is becoming more affordable," said Maher Abaza, Egypt's minister of electricity and energy.

He said a study found it was cheaper to provide desert villages like Awlad El Sheik with photovoltaic cells, which transform solar rays into electricity, than linking them to the main power grid. The use of solar energy in

Egypt dates back to the 1970s when the American University in Cairo used bassaissa village in the Nile delta as a prototype for fostering development through natural resources.

Salah Arafa, a physics professor at the university who helped start the project, stressed that solar energy was feasible only in rural areas with unfettered access to the sun. High rises in cities block the light.

He said money was needed to spread solar energy and recommended Egypt subsidise solar as it does conventional electric-

"Since solar energy is the future... we should have a long-term financing system," he said.

Government officials have not said how much would be spent on solar energy. In Awlad El Sheik. which means "children of sheik," a German grant is helping finance electrifica-

Twenty of the village's 40 houses got roof-top solar panels in September and the others are expected to be equipped soon. The families paid 105 pounds for each unit and were told they would have to pay more later, but the govern-ment has not said how

much or when. The long-term effect of electricity on their primitive life is still unclear. Mud brick houses re-

placed their tents in recent

years. But the floors are still sand, furniture is minimal — the villagers sit and sleep on handmade car-

pets.
With water available only from a well 4 kilometres away, the women do not dream of washing machines. And with kitchens consisting of outdoor mud-brick ovens, refrigerators and toasters are a world away.

But the 62-year-old village head, Abdul Wances Breik, said electricity already has changed their

"We used to sleep shortly after sunset," he said. 'Now that we have electricity, we stay up late and visit with the neighbours who are all consins."

The villagers are shepherds, like their forefathers. They live on the meat and milk of camels, cows and sheep. The women use wool from the animals to weave colourful carpets to supplement family incomes. A 12-year-old named

Nagwa said she enjoyed playing into the night with friends under the village's eight new street light. But, she added, "we still get up early to tend to the animals."

come more violent as it dives head first into the Russian underworld and struggle at home to grapple with the recent police crackdown and the worst recession in nearly 50 years.

"There are lots of angles: International activities, money laundering, investment overseas, varioins smuggling activities drugs, women and guns," said Kaplan. "And drugs and guns are very hot now.1

in Somalia Banana war

By Hugh Nevill

Agence France Presse MOGADISHU - A vicious banana war has broken out in Somalia amid

clans. At stake, in a country with virtually no foreign businesses operating, is a substantial European Union (EU) quota which also allows a certain shortfall to be made up using cheaper and better-quality bananas

the clashes of well armed

The winners so far though they are still complaining — are the growers, who have seen their prices go up from \$2.00 to \$2.70 a box — ample compensation for the four cents a box (about 12 or 13 kilogrammes) they pay for their banana militia.

from elsewhere.

Players are the De Nadai family from Italy and the Los Angeles-based Dole company, which on Tues-day officially launched its operations aboard a ship containing some fast-ripening bananas but with most

holds empty.

In the old days, under dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, the monopoly on banana exports was held by the Somalia Fruit company,

owned by the De Nadai family, the government and the growers.

After Mr. Siad Barre was deposed in January 1991 and inter-clan fighting broke out, the company's representatives disappeared.

In 1992, the growers had no one to sell to. Somalia Fruit returned in 1993, then fled again, re-turning in September of this

Dole, in the meantime, had arrived in the spring and snaffled the generous 270,000-tonne European Union quota awarded to Somalia as a former Italian

Both companies are operating in an environ-ment where virtually every car still running carries at least one gunman, and pickup trucks known as "techwith their occupants wielding an assortment of rifles, machine-guns, bazookas and rocket-propelled gre-nades, waving their guns at any vehicle they want to pass, and driving indifferently on the right, left or

No government exists to which official taxes can be paid, but both companies have made some investment in infrastructure, such as road improvement between the plantations and Mogadishu port.

The growers initially welcomed Dole with open arms, writing to Somalia Fruit last August that "we have started a new life with Dole," complaining that Somalia Fruit had withheld fertiliser and fuel, and warning that they were aware Somalia Fruit was taking steps to hinder their sales overseas.

Now, that has changed with growers' association chairman Salai Mohammad Siad saying in an interview this week that armed Dole militias were throwing up roadblocks to stop the farmers trucking their bananas

to Somalia Fruit. "That's baloney," re-torted Merhdad Radseresht, the managing director of Dole's Middle East operations, who is overseeing the Somali venture. "That's what's happening to us - we're not getting our bananas

The growers' association chairman, who speaks no English, was unable to explain clearly, in either Italian or Somali, the producers' reasons for switching allegiance a second time, but spoke darkly of an American conspiracy, and accused Dole of planning to export over-ripe bananas in a bid to destroy the Somali growers' reputations.

Mr. Radseresht, whose company has sunk about \$5 million into the operation, invited journalists to Somalia to see "the harmonious relationship between an American multinational and Somali growers and businessmen.

He said the Tropical Sun had been in port since Nov. 1 - the 10th visit by a Dole ship to Mogadishu - but that few bananas had been loaded. He said he would probably have to offload those on board now in the Middle East on the way to Europe, or even throw

An arbitration panel set up by warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed has meanwhile ruled that Dole's four-year contracts with growers will not apply after Dec. 23.

After that, it will be a free-for-all market.

Support grows for OPEC oil output freeze in 1995.

DENPASAR, Bali, Indonesia (R) — A call by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude oil producer, to freeze oil output through 1995 gained support within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Saturday, but analysts said it may not be enough to push world oil prices much higher.

Saudi Óil Minister Hisham Nazer said the kingdom wanted OPEC to keep a cap on production throughout the year to achieve "better

"We want to roll over (the ceiling) for 12 months. We will try to convince our colleagues," Sheikh Nazer told reporters on his arrival here for OPEC's year-end meeting on Monday.

The price for OPEC's basket of crudes averaged \$16.97 in the week of Nov. 11, a far cry from its target of \$21 and little better in real terms than before the 1973 Arab oil

The Saudi call for a freeze on the 12-member group's current production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d) to the end of 1995 initially surprised some fellow OPEC members, but appeared to be gaining sup-

A. Venezuelan delegate said Venezuelan Energy Minister Erwin Arrieta would support a 12-month rollover but preferred an indefinite extension. Qatar's oil minister also said he had no objection to a one-year

Other delegates said they needed time to review Sheikh



Nazer's idea but at least two non-Gulf sources expressed

Nigeria's junior oil minister, Umaru Baba, said the proposal was a good one if it firmed oil prices, but he wanted OPEC to review the ceiling again next June.

The backing of Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, will be key to the plan's success. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazade was said by Iranian delegates to favour a three or twelve-month rollover.

OPEC is banking on healthy growth in world oil demand to push prices higher next year.

Fereidun Fesharaki, head of energy programmes at Hawaii's East-West Centre, said 1994 would be a banner year for world oil demand and next year should be much the same.

"Asia and the U.S. together will add more than

Syria to build 60,000 b/d one million b/d of demand oil refinery around 70 to 80 per cent of that will go to OPEC," Mr. Fesharaki told Reuters.

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria will build an oil refinery with a processing capacity of 60,000 barrels per day (b/d), or three million tonnes per year, oil industry sources said

countries could dash OPEC's The project will increase hopes for higher prices next Syria's total oil refining year. "We could see another capacity to 300,000 b/d, or 300,000 b/d from the North nine million tonnes per year. Details on the financing of Sea next year and 500,000 b/d from Colombia in the next

the project were not available but economic sources say there was a big possibility the private sector would contribute for the first time.

Syria's oil refining industry is fully owned and operated by the government.

The sources said the new refinery should be able to process Syria's heavy and light crudes and should be designed to allow later expansion.

Syria produces around 160,000 b/d of heavy crudes from its far northeast oil fields and around 420,000 b/d of light crude from its fields in the Dayr Azzawr area, close to the Iraqi border.

Syria has now two refineries in the central city of Homs, some 200 kilometres north of Damascus, and Banyas on the Mediterranean 300 kilometres northwest of Damascus. Each has a processing capacity 120,000 b/d of crude oil.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), exports about 320,000 b/d of crude oil to the international market.

IEA sees oil upgrading profits squeezed for a year

AMSTERDAM (R) — Heavy fuel oil is likely to stay expensive for at least a year, squeezing the profits of firms that have invested heavily in upgrading plant to convert it into lighter grades, an Inter-national Energy Agency

(IEA) official has said. IEA director of oil mar-kets, Tomihiro Taniguchi, told Reuters that an unexpected rise in light crude oil production from areas like the North Sea and from Saudi Arabia had temporarily overturned conventional assumptions about the price relationship between oil pro-

Heavy fuel prices, tradi-tionally 60-70 per cent of crude prices, are currently worth almost as much as North Sea Brent.

The spot price of heavy fuel, used to fire power stations and ships, is now around \$16.70 a barrel in Rotterdam, compared to ab-out \$17.00 for Brent and \$20.00 for unleaded gasoline.
"The differential between

heavy fuel oil and light oil products is not high enough to allow a reasonable margin for upgrading plant," Mr. Taniguchi said in an inter-

"This presents a real shortterm problem to companies that have invested heavily in new plant. Of course, the normal relationships between product prices will be reestablished eventually, but in the short-term, in the next year, the problem will re-

main," he explained. He declined to identify the

oil companies at risk from the recent price trend but several European refiners have recently committed large sums to new upgrading projects.

Belgian major Petrofina

S.A. has just opened a new \$800 million unit at its Antiwerp refinery to turn most of its 60,000 barrels per day of heavy fuel oil into traditional high value pro-ducts such as diesel and gaso-

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group's Rotterdam refinery last month a two-year project to build a similar conversion plant at the cost of three billion guilders (\$1.72 billion.

Mr. Taniguchi said the new conversion capacity was coming on stream at a time when the supply of crude oil had actually become lighter. Saudi Arabia had cut its

production of heavy crude oil in favour of more expensive, lighter crudes, and British and Norwegian North Sea oilfields were pumping as never before. As a result, the price of

heavier oil products like fuel oil had been squeezed higher while light products values had fallen. And he said the recent very

hot summer had further distorted the relationship between heavy fuel oil and light oil products. The very hot days in sum-

mer gave an extra kick to electricity consumption this year," he said. U.S. consumption of low

sulphur fuels and Asian demand for high sulphur fuels had drained the European market of fuel oil.

WGC says gold demand driven by developing world

LONDON (R) — World-wide demand for gold continues to be driven by strong buying interest from the developing world, the World Gold Council (WGC) said,

Its quarterly publication Gold Demand Trends put 1994 third-quarter demand at 593 tonnes, up 6.2 per cent on the same period in 1993, which took the year-to-date total to 1,691 tonnes, a 6.4 per cent fall on last year.

"If this trend continues in the fourth-quarter, then gold consumption world-wide for the full year 1994 would come close to the record level experienced in 1992," a WGC spokesman said.

The WGC is a non-profit organisation owned by some of the world's leading mining companies. Its survey covers 75 per cent of world-wide demand for gold.

Demand from developing markets rose 14 per cent to 364 tonnes, the first quarterly year-on-year rise in these markets since early 1993 and offsetting a four per cent drop in developed market demand of 228.7 tonnes.

Roger Murphy, general manager of the WGC economic division said the quarter's figures reflected high gold prices late last year and the increasing economic power of developing regions.

"We have seen short-term price elasicity of demand replaced by income elasticity. he told journalists after the publication of the survey. "People have postponed purchases of gold rather than cancelled them."

Gold prices rose from a seven-year low in March last year of \$326.10 per ounce to peak of over \$400 in August, 1993. Prices then slipped to \$340 before making a more gentle recovery.

Demand growth was strong in India, where continuing market liberalisation and economic stabilisation increased consumption by 22 per cent to 88 tonnes in the quarter, the report said.

Chinese demand jumped a massive 132 per cent to 58 tonnes but the WGC stressed this was compared to a very low 1993 quarter.

However, Middle Eastern offtake was down 13 per cent to 43 tonnes paced by economic uncertainties in Saudi Arabia which caused domestic consumption to plunge 16 per cent to 38 tonnes.

Markets in the United States, Europe and Japan also failed to match the growth seen elsewhere and overall demand in the developed markets contracted by four per cent.

Overall U.S. consumption was static at 76 tonnes. accounted for by a four-per cent increase in jewellery sales to 71 tonnes.

In Europe, gold demand was stable at 77.2 tonnes but mixed through the region. Jewellery consumption was up two per cent to 67.2 tonnes and of the major European markets, only Germany and Italy failed to record the same or an increased level of

sales, the WGC said. Japanese demand of 76 tonnes was down 12 per cent but Mr. Murphy said the figures had to be taken against an exceptionally high figure in the third quarter 1993, which included 36 tonnes of gold minted as commemorative coins for the royal wedding.

India could cap fiscal deficit as revenue booms

NEW DELHI (R)- India, seeking budgetary stability under an economic reform programme, looks likely to meet its fiscal deficit target as tax collections are booming while government spending is stable. experts have said.

"It should be broadly in line as I have projected,"
Finance Minister Manmohan Singh told Reuters. Experts

"Tax collections are very encouraging. I am surprised," said Amaresh Bagdent National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). "It looks like the trend is genuine."

Both direct and indirect tax collections are going up as industrial production fought back from a two-year recession. . .

India said last week its indirect tax collections from commodity taxes and customs duties rose 17.96 per

cent to 340.24 billion rupees (\$10.8 billion) in the first seven months of the current 1994/95 (April-March) fiscal year, compared with the same period of 1993/94.

The rise was well above the 14 per cent it had targeted for the current fiscal year from the two levies, which make up 70 per cent of the government's tax revenue.

Tax collections are crucial in India's effort to get its fiscal deficit down to 6.0 of the gross domestic product the 7.3 per cent figure it hit in 1993/94.

The high deficit in the last fiscal year helped spur double-digit inflation that lasted from March to August this year. The wholesale price inflation which the government uses as its benchmark is now 9.4 per cent.

Direct taxes, including income tax and corporate tax which make up most of the other 30 per cent of government revenues, are seen as

"There is no reason why next year we shouldn't add

But Mr. Fesharaki said ris-

OPEC also needs coopera-

tion from the weather. The

group hopes that robust de-

mand in the northern winter

will push prices higher, but

mild weather could leave too

much oil on the market in the

spring, when demand is low.

which has been barred from

exporting oil since it invaded

Kuwait in mid-1990 but has

the capacity to pump as much

analysts do not foresee Iraq's

return to the world market

until at least 1996, oil traders

fear the prospect of it return-

ing earlier and flooding sup-

"The market has become

demand led and the Saudis

have recognised that," an

official with a major Euro-

pean oil company said.

adding that there was more

risk of oil prices falling next

Michael Rothman, senior

Lynch, also said a

energy futures analyst at Merrill Lynch, also said a

one-year output freeze would

do little to push prices above

levels seen this year.

year due to Iraqi crude.

'as Iran. Though many

Another wild card is Iraq.

ing supplies from non-OPEC

another one million b/d."

two vears."

being generally on track. "Corporate taxes are doing well but income tax collections are a little sługgish," said R.S. Rathore, chairman of the direct tax office.

Commodity taxes and customs duties are levied evenly through the year at factory gates and ports, but direct tax figures show up only in the second half of the year.

Half-yearly profit figures

have been encouraging, with many companies reporting rises of over 50 per cent. But actual collections will not show up until later this year, Mr. Rathore said.
"Half-yearly figures don't

really help as companies inflate their figures to increase their market capitalisation," Mr. Rathore said.

17 to 19 per cent in the first

half over the same period last

year, he said.

But the rise in direct tax revenue had already touched

S. Korea needs 200,000 foreign workers — survey SEOUL (R) - South Korea, justice ministry estimates

which enjoys virtually full employment, needs more than 200,000 extra foreign workers to cover shortfalls in dirty, difficult and dangerous

jobs, a survey has found. The Korean Federation of Small Businesses said it based its estimate on a survey of more than 16,000 small and medium sized companies.

The survey found the companies preferred workers from China, the Philippines and Vietnam, in that order, and most said their needs for extra labour was greatest in the final quarter of the year.

Last year the government responded to pleas from small manufacturers by announcing a plan to admit foreign migrant workers to fill bs known locally as "3d"- dirty, difficult and dangerous - which most Ko-

reans shun. About 25,000 migrants work legally in South Korea, the majority being ethnic Koreans from China, but the

more than 52,000 people work illegally.

Labour rights activists say many work long hours in often poor conditions and change their homes regularly to evade immigration investi-

Workers from countries like the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China come in search of wages averaging between 400, 000 and 500,000 won (\$500-600) a month, far more than they could expect at home. Most labour intensive in-

dustries in South Korea face stiff competition from other cheaper Asian producers. But the prospect of a furth-er influx of foreign workers is politically sensitive in racially

homogeneous South Korea. Unions and pro-labour groups oppose the importation of foreign workers, arguing it will undermine wages for unskilled workers and could lead to local unem-

One third of foreigners dodge taxes in China

BEIJING (AFP) - Nearly one third of foreigners living in China are income tax dodgers, with the evasion costing the state some 18.06 million yuan (\$2.12 million) in lost revenue, the official China Daily has said. Some 9,695 of 33,190 foreigners targetted in a recent nationwide investigation by tax departments had evaded taxes, the report said. State Taxation Bureau official Su Xiaolu attributed the problem in part to some foreigners' unfamiliarity with China's tax regime, which was radically overhauled at the beginning of this year, as well as to intentional evasion. Under the new system, foreigners are required to pay tax in nine different brackets at rates ranging from five to 45 per cent on income earned in China and, for those residing here for more than one year,

on income from abroad.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1994 By Thorn: S. Piorson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The best day of the month with five excellent aspects should be used wisely in whatever way you decide to improve immediate conditions around you. Conduct any discussion in a charming any discussion in a charming — special location.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Private plans and arrangements to gain more success in reducing your intimate goals to a reality can be achieved today but tonight don't upset any apple-

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get in touch with good friends who understand you very well and let them know your new plan of life and account of life and accept their assistance

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that you have a greater awareness of what one in power expects from you so go along with that persons wishes, tonight avoid public and limelight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into whatever new interesting conditions arise that can be a good outlet for you to express your fondest expecta-tions, then join a peaceful group. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the moment for you to get into whatever obligations you have to understand them and any credi-tors and handle sensible, tonight don't argue with mate.

mind concerning public expansion and a new image can be put into motion rightly but tonight don't make changes in routines. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A great day to get into , to perfect or to put across, the you would be wise to avoid going out to see close companions

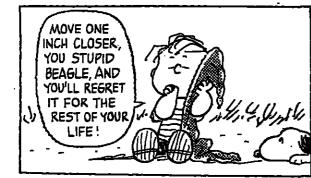
SCORPIO: (October 23 to your attachment most expects of you and try to carry through in as interesting a manner as you can. tonight avoid any extravagance. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Matters at home can reach a new high in efficiency and operative skill during the daytime but tonight make sure you don't force issues with

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let those with whom you have business contact know that you are alert to modern and up to date interests but tonight don't get into any schemes. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go after what you want today with courage and confidence and accept assistance of any good friends but tonight don't be with a harping associate. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own ideas and judge-

with good judgement and you can rely ungon them today although tonight a bigwig could district to the country t VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in disappoint you. Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

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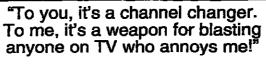


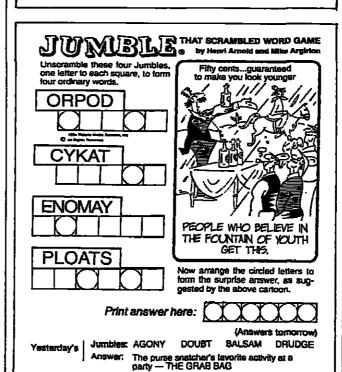


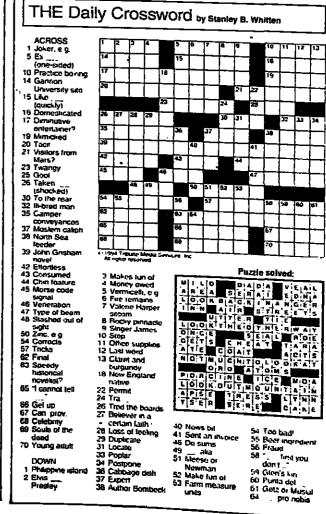
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Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank



| New York Close Insel7/11794 | New York Close Patr 18/11/94 |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1.5719 | 1.5660 |
| 1.5525 | 1.5553 |
| 1.3050 | 1.3185 |
| | 5.3410 |
| 98.33 | 98.58 |
| 1.2265 | 1.2250 |
| | Close hur 17/1 1794 1.5719 1.5525 1.3858 5.3345 98.33 |

| Cremench | I MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTH |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.31 | 5.68 | 5.93 | 6.31 |
| Sterling Pound | 5.37 | 5.15 | 6.18 | 6.75 |
| Deutsche Mark | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.06 | 5.43 |
| Swiss Franc | 3.37 | 3.68 | 3_87 | 4.31 |
| French Franc | 5.31 | 5.50 | 5.75 | 6.25 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.13 | 2.20 | 2.32 | 2.63 |
| European Currency Unit | 5.59 | 5.82 | 6.05 | 6.62 |

| Precious J | Metals | Date: 19 | /11/1994 | | |
|------------|--------|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm* | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
| Gold | 384.35 | 7.60 | Silver | 5.15 | 0.117 |

| | Date: 19/11 | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|--|--|
| Сагтевсу | Bid | Offer | | |
| J.S. Dollar | 0.6990 | 0.7016 | | |
| eritug Pound | 1.0935 | 1.0990 | | |
| entsche Mark | 0.4486 | 0.4508 | | |
| wise Franc | 0.5295 | 0.5321 | | |
| rench Franc | 0.1307 | 0.1514 | | |
| panese Yea ^o | 0.7093 | 0.7128 | | |
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|----------|---|--|
| Bld | Offer | |
| 1.8370 | 1.8500 | |
| 0.041268 | 0.042485 | |
| 0,1851 | 0.1868 | |
| 2.3040 | 2.3650 | |
| 0.1908 | 0.19205 | |
| 0.2000 | 0.2200 | |
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New Jordanian drug complex to start. production next month

AMMAN (R) — A new Jordanian pharmaceutical firm said Saturday it would start production by next month from a \$23 million complex being built in phases over three years.

Mohammad Samih Barakat, chairman of the Advance Pharmaceutical Industries Company, a public share-holding firm, said a unit producing the first Jordan-made baby feeding bottles would go into production sometime in December.

That phase cost 1.5 million dinars (\$2.1 million). Mr. Barakat told Reuters the company expected to complete the largest pharmaceutical complex in Jordan

Jordan has a buoyant pharmacentical industry whose exports have topped \$100 million so far this year. A number of new plants are being set up in a rash of

Investors are targeting a huge market in Iraq, once

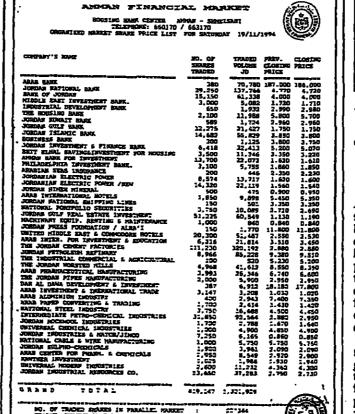
U.N. sanctions are lifted, as well as Israel, the West Bank and East European coun-

The company plans to start building its main six million dinar (\$8.5 million) plant near the city of Madaba in early 1995 with help from an undisclosed foreign pharmaceutical company commissioned to design and construct it. It should start production early 1996.

An expansion project cost-ing over 8.5 million dinars (\$12.1 million) to add new drug product lines is expected to begin in 1997, Mr. Barakat said.

Bank of Jordan owns 1.5 per cent of the company's capital with other institutional investors holding a 15 per

cent stake. It's founders covered 75 per cent of the company's 16 million dinar (\$22.8 million) capital early in 1994. It covered the remaining four mil-lion dinars (\$5.7 million) floated in a public offer.



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Daily Business Beat

** The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) is conducting a study to link Shidiyeh mines with a railroad in Batn Al Ghoul area. The length of this project is about 50 kilometres. ARC is also conducting a study for a 20-kilometre railroad link between the city of Aqaba and the fertiliser complex (Al Ra'i).

** The director-general of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan called on farmers to make use of the classifying, grading and packaging centres for fruits and vegetables which are owned by the company in Wadi Al Yabes and southern Shouneh. The director-general also urged farmers and traders of foodstuff and meat to benefit from the cooling and freezing centre in Al Qastal that have encouraging prices (Al Ra'i).

** Motor Trade Company announces new prices for Volkswagen and Audi cars after the change in customs tariffs (Al Ra'i).

** The Arab Jordan Company for Investment is being established with a JD 10 million capital. Founders have covered JD 7.5 million and the remaining JD 2.5 million will be offered for public subscription soon. The company, whose main founders are the Arab Jordan Investment Bank and Abdul Qader Al Qadi and Sons, aims at investment in all economic, commercial, agricultural, touristic and real estate fields in addition to the services sector (Al Ra'i).

★★ Lada Trading Company announces new prices for its cars following the recent changes in customs tariffs_

* Al-Tawfiq Automobile and Equipment Company announces new prices for Renault, Jeep and Aleko cars (Al Aswaq).

☆☆ The general assembly of Dar Al Dawa Develop- Bureau (Ad-Dustour).

ment and Investment Company has approved doubling the capital of the company from JD 3 million to JD 6 million. The capital increase will come from capitalising the voluntary and special reserves and retained earnings (Al Aswaq).

* Al Iqbal Company for Development and Investment is preparing for official registration as the founders of the company are to meet Monday to sign the articles of association and internal regulations. The company will have a JD 30 million capital 75 per cent of which were subscribed to by the founders. The president of the founding committee is Tawfiq Fakhoury, chairman of the Bank of Jordan (Sawt Al

* An economic mission from the Netherlands will visit Jordan next week and seeks to meet representatives from Jordan companies (Ad-Dustour).

★★ Marble and granite manufacturers are angry over the reduction of customs tariffs on imported granite and marble from 150 per cent to 50 per cent. They say that the government is no longer giving them protection and, as such, they may not be able to compete with foreign products (Ad-Dustour).

** Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf decided to form a consultative committee for the ministry to help draw policies and make amendments to economic laws. The committee includes: Omar Nabulsi; Rajai Muasher, Taher Kanaan, Basel Jardaneh, Ziyad Fariz, Fahed Fanek, the secretary general of the ministry, Khalil Talhouni, Awni Al Saket, Wahib Shaer, Munif Hijazi, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, the president of the Jordanian Businessmen Association, the president of the Researchers' Union and the president of the Audit

JD 7m needed to rescue glass firm

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Experts who studied the financially troubled Jordan Glass Industries over the past several months have come up with several proposals to salvage the firm through expansion and modernisation, and the most feasible plan among them is described as one that would cost around JD 7 million.

The Jordan Glass Industries is among several government-controlled entities that ran into serious financial troubles over the past few years. Studies are also under way on the other firms in line with efforts launched by Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf to salvage them wherever possible.

ficials of the lordan Glass Industries, which suspended its operations as of Dec. 31, 1993 pending rescue, confirmed that the proposals were submitted to Dr. Khalaf who in turn had forwarded them to the full cabinet.

The officials confirmed

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that a report published in the local press about the proposals was largely accurate.

The proposals, supported by an expert study on the technical and administrative aspects of the company, involve several alternatives in modernising the Kiln and extraction systems of the company's plant situated in Maan, according to the report. The Council of Ministers

will study the proposals and the mostly feasible among them, in view of the shifting patterns of local and external demand for glass, appears to be one which calls for a dramatic change in the present technology and production methods used in the

Despite being the only sch production facility in the country and the abundance of raw material — silicate sand - in Jordan, the company failed to make a success of its operations mainly as a result' of obsolete technology and production methods, according to experts.

The main problem was the

below-standard quality of sheet glass produced by the company.

Sami Abu Tawil, chairman and general manager of the company, said in June that foreign operators would be brought in and technical changes made in the plant to upgrade it. It was then expected that the studies and related decisions would be taken in time for the plant to resume production before the end of the year.

The company, which was established in 1974 with a JD 1 million capital, started production in 1984. Its capital was raised to JD 9 million (then worth nearly 830 million) in 1987.

It suffered losses more than 75 per cent of its capital since then, prompting the Amman Financial Market to suspend the circulation of its shares in the market in mid-1994. According to Mr. Abu

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Tawil, the company's assets are estimated between \$35 million and \$40 million.

The Jordan Investment Corporation, the govern-

ment's investment arm, holds 59.4 per cent of the company's equity. Another three government agencies hold nine per cent and the rest is owned by Jordanian com-

panies and individuals. Investor interest in the company, which had 300 people on its payroll when it suspended operations for "maintenance purposes" last year, is expected to be revived after the government announces how it intends to salvage the company after absorbing the losses.

Experts say raising the capital is inevitable to bring in the needed funds for expansion if that is the proposal adopted by the government.

UAE to set up new lubricant plant

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to set up a new lubricant plant to face growing local demand and to export to China, India and other countries, the project's owners have said.

The plant, to be based in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone, will have a production capacity of around 30,000 tonnes per year and its costs aree estimated at 36 million dirhams (\$10 million).

"It will target the lcoal market in the first place but there are plans to supply foreign markets like Gulf states, India, Pakistan, China and other countries," said Hussein Kazem, public relations director at the government-owned Emirates General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC). "Feasibility studies on the project have reached advanced stages."

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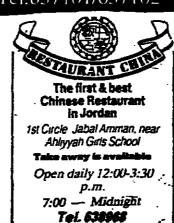
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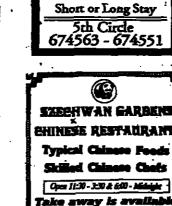


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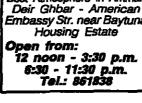
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5 Hussein, Watani struggle for place in 1st division

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

CT1

AMMAN — Al Hussein and Al Watani play their -most important match Sunday as both teams struggle to hold on to their place among the Kingdom's prestigious group of the First Division Basketball Cham-

pionship.
The winning team will almost avoid relegation, while the loser will be relegatd unless they win with a_score difference in their second round match.

· Both Al Hussein and Al Watani have only scored one win each over Homentmen who are now certain to be relegated unless they defeat Al Watani and Al Hussein by a score difference in the second round.

In other matches Sunday, Al Jalil take on Al 'Orthodoxi and Al Ahli ckash with Al Jazireh.

Al Jalil, who have held fourth place in the standings for the past -two years, are expected to delight Irbid fans as they 'did in their latest match against the titleholders before losing 96-69. Scoring remained close throughout the first half

and Al Ahli ended the first half with a mere 10-point Al Jalil reduced the gap to 58-51 in the second half,

but Al Ahli, with a mighty lineup of players went on to score their first win under 100-point mark. In another match, Al Jazireh who had their eyes set on second place this season, face Al Ahli at the

Sports Palace. Al Jazireh's ambitious plans were upset by former champions Al Orthodoxi 92-75 in their latest match and now seem set to be content with third place which they clinched from Al Jalil in 1992.

Al Orthodoxi and Ahli now lead the standings with eight points and are the only unbeaten teams in the competition.

Al Orthodoxi scored their fourth win Friday defeating Al Hussein 99-38 in a match which was postponed when heavy rains closed the Amman-Irbid

The win moved the former champions to second place behind Al Ahli on score difference. The alltime rivals will clash in the final of the first round Nov.

Detroit at Chicago, Indiana-

Pittsburgh, San Diego at New England, Washington at Dal-

las. Atlanta at Denver, New

Orleans at the Los Angeles

Raiders, the New York Jets at Minnesota. Philadelphia at

Arizona, Tampa Bay at Seat-tle and The Los Angeles Rams at San Francised.

On Monday night, the New

York Giants are at Houston

in a game that will mark Jeff

Fisher's debut as coach of the

While most signs point to

the end of an era in the AFC.

polis at Cincinnati, Miami at

STANDINGS

| | P | W | L | SF | SA | Pts. |
|-----------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|------|
| Abli | 4 | 4 | | 480 | 216 | 8 |
| Orthodoxi | . 4 | 4 | | 414 | 208 | 8 |
| Jazireh | 4 | 3 | 1 | 333 | 305 | 7 |
| Jalil · | 4 | 2 | 2 | 324 | 301 | 6 |
| Watani | . 5 | 1 | 4 | 340 | 467 | 6 |
| Hussein | 4 | 1 | 3 | 235 | 366 | 5 |
| Homentmen | 5 | _ | 5 | 225 | 488 | 5 |

Buffalo Bills facing uphill struggle

_By The Associated Press

THE BUFFALO BILLS, Renowned for their resilency as well as four straight Super Bowl losses, may have played themselves into a chasm from which even they can't recov-

Struggling with a .500 record, beset with injuries and coming off a short work week following a 23-10 loss to Pittsburgh Monday night. The Bills Sunday face the Green Bay Packers, winning or three straight and looking to salt away a postseason date.

And while the Bills know

there's no more time for letdowns, even they don't sound too certain they can overcome their shortcoming this time around.

"I've never seen us this banged up," quarterback, Jim Kelly said. "When you

41. Shearer 70).

55. Deane 72).

tle 2 (Beardsley, Kitson).

Palace O.

to give up and I don't expect come off of a game like we had against the Steelers, and anybody on this team to." Other games Sunday have Cleveland at Kansas City. now you have to face guys like Reggie White, you're saying 'God, almighty, who's next?"

Really, with an injured hand, and backup Frank Reich, with an injured shoulder, were hurt against the Steelers, who had seven sacks. But both are probable

for Sunday. Thurman Thomas, still hobbed by a sore ankle, is expected to play, but starting defensive ends Bruce Smith (shoulder) and Phil Hansenn (Ribs) are questionable, and receivers Don Beebe (head) and Bycky Brooks (knee) are

"You never can count us out," Kelly said. "I know it is going to make it a lot harder when you have so many guys

Packers coach Mike Holmeren says he hasn't given up on Buffalo just yet. "The Buffalo Bills are the banged up, But I'm not going same team with the same players that have gone to the Super Bowl the last four years," he said. "Our players British soccer results are under no illusions. We

> guys will respect them like Green Bay (6-4), like the Biulls in the AFC East, is tied for second in the NFC Central. The Packers, however, would make the playoffs if the season ended before Sun-

know the Bills are a fine

football team. We're still

trying to reach that level. Our

day. The Bills would not. Green Bay (6-4), like the Bills in the AFC East, is tied for second in the NFC Central. The Packers, however, would make the playoffs if the season ended before Sun-

day. The Bills would not. Green Bay, however, isn't without its own injury con-

Sterling Sharpe, the only player in history with more than 100 catches in consecutive seasons, is slowed by a pulled hamstring.

Graf may need surgery, could miss Australian Open

FRANKFURT (AP) — Steffi Graf, the ailing top-ranked woman tennis player, may need surgery for her painful back injury and could miss the Australian Open in January, her doc-

Graf was beaten by Mary Pierce Thursday in the Virginia Slims Championships in New York, in what was only her second match since the U.S. Open in

Her doctor, Helmut

tor at the ATP Tour World Championship here, said in a statement distributed here Saturday that the injury would prevent Graf from playing or training for an unspecified time.

A "stress reaction" in the lower back was causing the pain. Krahl said. "All possibilities of therapy are being considered, including surgical steps."

"At the moment, Graf's start at the Australian Open looks doubtful," the statement said.

Gary Lineker bows out

TOKYO (Agencies) — For-mer England striker Gary Lineker bowed out of club soccer Saturday in the same way his international career ended two years ago in Sweden — substituted in the second half.

But this time, unlike his ignominious departure during the European Championship, he was carrying an injury.

tent toe injury, was unable to give the 21,000 crowd a glimpse of his famous goalpoaching skills in his farewell appearance for Nagoya Grampus Eight in the 1-0 J. League victory over Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

When the match ended all the stadium lights were turned off apart from on spotlight directed at Lineker standing on the pitch.

The audience gave him a standing ovation, chanting: "Linker, Lineker, Linker..."

"I feel so glad that I have received such warm support since I came to Japan," he replied. "I wish I could have returned the favour on the field. But I couldn't do it, I

am sorry. Lineker was one of the biggest foreign purchases made before the J-League was launched last year. His ontract was reputed to be worth 700 million yen (\$7

But Lineker has been consistently sidelined by injury. He has managed just eight goals and announced in the summer that he would quit at the end of teh season. Grampus, whose winning goal time, finished the season bottom of the table, winning only six of their 22 matches.

Brazilians Edson and Betinho both scored in secondplaced Bellmare Hiratsuka's 2-1 consolatio nwin over Verdy Kawasaki.

Verdy, the 1993 championship holders, will take on firs stage winners Sanfrecce on November 26 and 30 in the championship play-of. Verdy ended the second stage with 17 wins against five defeats, followed by Bellmare with a 16-6 record.

Lineker who has served Leicester, Everton, Barcelona, Tottenham, Grampus and England in an 18-year spell, will now return to Britain to concentrate on television, radio and newspaper

He scored 48 goals, just one short of Bobby Charlton's England record, during an impeccable 80-match international career.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Okeke cleared of drugs charge

OSLO (AFP) - Sprinter Aham Okeke, banned for three months after failing a doping test, was cleared Friday by the Norwegian Sports Association. Okeke tested positive for pseudoephedrine last July in Stockholm but after an investigation the Norwegian Sports Association cleared him of cheating. Okeke, who was forced to miss the European Athletic Championships because of the ban, said he was given the drug by a doctor at the University of Texas, where he is studying, to treat an allergy. He said he had asked the doctor if the drug was on the banned list and he had replied no.

Motorcycling GP marred by tragedy

MACAU (AFP) - Steve Hislop of Scotland clinched his third Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix Saturday in a race marred by the death of a Japanese competitor. Three other riders were also taken to hospital in separate accidents, forcing the race to be cut short. Katshuhiro Tottiori of Japan, riding a Kawasaki 750 for Motorsports Prom, was trying to pass another rider on the inside when he hit a wall. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a Macau hospital. The three other riders are in stable condition. Racing a Yamaha 500, Hislop finished the race in 52 min 55.75 sec. almost three minutes ahead of Mike Edwards. Hislop also won last year and in 1990.

Cowboys fined for failing to report injuries

NEW YORK (AP) - National Football League commissioner Paul Tagliabue fined the Dallas Cowboys \$10,000 Friday for violating the league's policy on reporting injuries. According to the league, the defending Super Bowl champions failed to follow proper procedures last Friday after quarterback Troy Aikman injured his right thumb during practice. NFL policy requires teams to supply information on all injured players to the league office Wednesday and Thursday for release to the media. League guidelines further explain that. if additional injuries occur after Thursday, clubs are obligated to report them to their local media, the Associated Press, the network televising their game that media. The Associated Press, the network televising their games that weekend: "the" copposing team and the league office. The league said those procedures were not followed in the Aikman case. The injury to the starting quarterback was serious enough to require an X-ray and treatment.

Schalke defeat Dresden 4-0

FRANKFURT (AP) — FC Schalke defeated Dynamo Dresden 4-0 Friday in a 14th round Bundesliga first division soccer match. Schalke, playing at home, took the lead on a goal by Youri Mulder from 60 feet (18 metres) out in the 20th. Ten minutes later, Radoslav Latal scored for Schalke from 47 feet (14 metres) out on a slick pass combination with Waldemar Ksienzyk, a minute into the second half, Latal scored again to make it 3-0. Schalke's midfielder Michael Bueskens then added an insurance goal at the 53rd. About 24,000 spectators watched the game in Schalke's Park Stadium. In the only other game, Cologne played visiting Hamburg SV to a 1-1 draw.

Bonaly, Candeloro win in French Trophy skating

LYON (AP) — Four-time European champion Surya Bonaly of France moved up from third to take the women's competition Friday at the

French Trophy international figure skating competition. Another French skater, Philippe Candeloro, took the men's competition, also jumping from third to first. The French Trophy is a new competition in France this year replacing the Lalique Trophy which lost its status after a feud with the French skating federation over televi-

Romania, U.S. reach gymnastics world team finals

DPRT,IMD (AP) — Shannon Miller dropped out, but the United States scrapped its way into the finals of the gymnastics World Team Championships Friday by finishing second to Romania in qualifying. Romania held a narrow lead over the United States after the compulsories, then turned in another strong performance in optionals to finish first among the six teams that qualified for the finals. Romania, Olympic silver medalist in team competition, scored a combined 386,878 points, beating the United States (385.577) and China (385.527. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus also advanced to Sunday's finals. Romania was led by Gina Gogean and double Olympic gold medalist Lavinia Milosovici, who turned in the second best all around score for individuals during Friday's routines

U.S. to host France in Davis Cup play

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) - The United States Davis Cup team, which played all three of its 1994 matches on the road, will host a first-round match in St. Petersburg next year. USTA officials said Thursday that the U.S., which has won 30 Davis Cup titles, will play France Feb. 3-5 at the Bayfront Centre. The squad hasn't been selected, but there is a chance the team could be made up mostly of players who reside in the Tampa Bay area, including Tampa's Pete Sampras and Jared Palmer and Dade City's Jim Courier. Team captain Tom Gullikson has until Jan. 24 to name a team, other players under consideration include Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, Gullikson told the St. Petersburg Times that he's already talked to Sampras, who's ranked first in the world. The French team could include 1993 U.S. Open finalist Cedric Pioline, one-time top 10 player Guy Forget, Oliver Delaitre, Arnaud Boetsch and Fabrice Santoro. The USS: won the 1990 Davis Cup when the final was played in St. Petersburg's Thunderdome.

Compagnoni to miss opening World Cup races

ROME (R) — Double Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni will miss the opening races of the Alpine Skiing World Cup season because of a kidney infection. The Italian has been ruled out of the North American leg of the circuit, meaning she will miss at least seven races. The season begins in Park City, Utah next weekend with a slalom and a giant slalom. Compagnons was discharged from a Milan hospital Saturday. Doctors have told her to rest for two to three weeks, the Italian Winter Sports Federation said in a statement.

Over 100 hurt in Bangladesh soccer violence

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R) -Police Saturday fired teargas and used batons to disperse hundreds of fighting soccer fans in the southern port city of Chittagong. More than 100 people including ten policemen were injured in an hour-long battle between the supporters of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, police said. They said the Mohammedan supporters stormed onto the pitch, chasing players and the referee, when their team was losing two goals to nil with only 10 minutes of play remaining. The win by Abahani would have clinched the local

THE EMBASSY OF ITALY ANNOUNCES

LONDON (AFP) — Results of Saturday's football matches

Ipswich 1 (Thomsen 28) Blackburn 3 (Sutton 8, Sherwood

Man Utd. 3 (Irwin 8, Cantoua 34, Kanchelskis 50) Crystal

QPR 3 (Ferdinand 30, 39, Gallen 67) Leeds 2 (McDonald

Tottenham 3 (Sheringham 40, Klinsmann (pen) 53, 74) Aston Villa 4 (Atkinson 8, Fenton 21, 27 Saunders 87).

Wimbledon 3 (Clarke 2, Ekoku 27, Harford 36) Newcas-

Coventry 1 (Jones 62) Norwich 0

Nottm Forest 0 Chelsea 1 (Spencer 28).

Sheff. Wed. 1 (Petrescu 28) West Ham 0.

Southampton 1 (Magilton 56) Arsenal 0.

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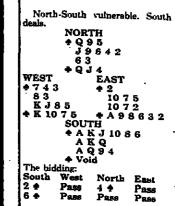
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Opening lead: Three of 4 Here's a simple question: South, declarer at six spades, brought home the slam. Which trick did East-West

The bidding has a point of inter-The bigging has a point of interest. North's jump to game in partner's suit in response to the demand bid showed length in trumps (usually four cards), but denied a first or second-mund control on the side. Nevertheless, South contracted for with the long trump also held three hearts.

There was a way out of this impasse as long as hearts were no worse than 3-2. After winning the trump in dummy with the nine, diclarer led the queen of clubs. When East put up the ace, South discarded the queen of hearts from hand! East shifted to a diamond. Spurping the finesse declarer may with the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of spades in case trumps were 2-2, then cleared the ace and king of hearts. After both defenders followed, the contract was assured. Declarer crussed to the queen of trumps, drawing the last enemy fang in the process, then ran three heart tricks to dispuse of all the diamonds from the closed hand.

So the slam was made for the logs of solit state of the logs.

slam, expecting the contract to be no worse than on a diamond finesse. West led a trump and declare realized that, if the diamond king

reanzed that, if the diamond king were onside, all the tricks would be made by ruffing two diamonds in dummy. However, should the finesse lose and the defender led a second trump there was a distinct possibility the contract would fail if trumps split 3-1, unless the defender with the long trump also held three hearts.

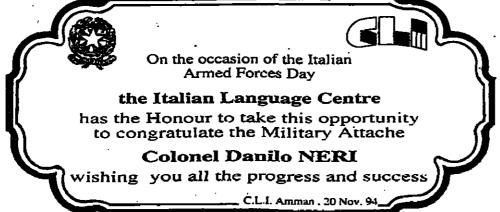
So the slam was made for the loss [of only a club track!

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BRIEF

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OPRTAMIC (AP) Shannon M. despited our but the I med his Realisted as who into the party of Spanisher peritt lead to hentegriber bereifer bei einergribe ich he fermana in qualitating to held a that was been according to the latter after the computations. states after the computation of furned in another strong perform in epitamist to furth that damped at trains that qualitied to the for-Remand, themps sive medic francein the second to the second inch companies, beating the list. States the 122 and China their Russia, Uktaine and Relatividing success to Sunday's total Robert was led by time Coverin and de-(Manthe, Rolly moduled frames, marker while insuces to the property My mining water but mending the France contines

U.S. to host France in Davis Cup play

ST PETERSBURG (AP) = 5 United States Days Cop learning played all three of its 1994 milds. the result, will here a text-round in in M. Petersburg new year to officials and Thursday that the fi which has were 30 Days Cop & will play France beb is at the is min Center. The squad hand he selected, but there is a change fram could be made up mora players who result in the family area, meluding Lampa s Fee Sea and Jared Palmer and Pade Corp. Court Transapton fortie has until fan Massanta de ma players umiet consideration me Andre Agass and Make & Coullissen fold the St. Friend Times that he's already take Sumpress where tarties for by world. The brench term tout and fußt fich ibpen brant (g Profess, our time top is passed. Forget, Oliver Dearth in High and latter Satisfic US win the 1800 Tax Conthe final was played a St. Edino-

Compagnoni to mass operand it and Gara. MIMI AND HER OWN THE TO SEE WITH THE REPORTED

hands on the A. A. A. Control 歌鳴 陳耀郎 张 和 [18] (19] (2) [2] स्क्रिक लेखा है जिसे 御地 智 さんた か ... See a Mare Maria to the control of the **経験を表にここ**

CHITTAGERS 1. Here with a low that I wanted to get him some more minutes." Sparring City of his shot. enter the pitch who is shown the reference when the change as S. two greats to tell a " of plac remaining A ...

GOREN BRIDGE

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Date saves 5 match points to oust Martinez

Japan's Kimiko Date fought off five match points Friday night to continue her mastery over Conchita Martinez and eliminate the Wimbledon champion from the Virginia Slims Championships.

Sports

The hard-fought 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) victory boosted the eighth-seeded Date into the semifinals of the \$3.5 million, season-ending tournament. It also made No. 5 Mary Pierce the highest seded player still chasing the \$250,000 first-

place prize.
In the first quarterfinal, seventh-seeded Lindsay Davenport ousted No. 4 Jana

The semifinal will pit Pierce against Davenport and Date against unseeded Gabriela Sabatini, who won this Madison Square Garden tournament in 1988. Top-seeded Steffi Graf.

the defending champion, fell to Pierce in the quarterfinals and No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 6 Martina Navratilova were eliminated in the opening round.

It was only fitting that it was Date that provided the schocker. In four career meetings, she has beaten Martinez three times. All this

But this one was super special - and a super sur-

"This one is very important," Date said. "It gives me a lot of confidence.

After splitting the first two sets, Martinez grabbed a 4-2 lead and appeared to have her semifinal spot all sewed up. Date had other ideas. Date held in the seventh and ninth games from deuce, the latter making it 5-4 Martinez, with the Spaniard sacrying for the match.

Five times Martinez had match point, but five times Date battled back to deuce. On one, Date raced from side to side and then to the net, only to lose the point, then draped over the net to catch Date finally broke through after staving off the fifth match point when Martinez sailed a forehand long. That made it deuce, and Date grabbed the ad point when she caught up with a drop shot and answered with a little chip of her own that

Martinez netted. When Martinez whacked a cross-court backhand wide, Date pulled level at 5-5. "I just tried hard to con-

centrate on hitting the ball,"

Date said. Both served love games to send the final set to a tiebreaker, in which Date won the first six points. Two points later, Date had sprvived a 2-hour, 36-minute battle.

Davenport easily captured her quarterfinal match, combining powerful ground-strokes and Novotna's bundle of errors. Whenever the fourth-seeded Novotna broke Davenport's serve, she immediately gave back the advantage, accompanied by a

large serving of mistakes. Novotna had two aces, half as many as Davenport, but committed nine double faults, two on game points in the second set. Davenport had only one double fault, which she led 40-30 in a game

she eventually lost.
"So far this week, I've played just really well," Davenport said. "I felt really relaxed the whole week.

With Novotna showing her frustration more and more, Davenport needed only to keep the ball in play and let her Czech opponent selfdestruct. Davenport did just that and Novotna continued to have problems clearing the net or keeping the ball in the

Sampras, Becker complete semifinal field

In Frankfurt, with a lot of help from Boris Becker, topranked Pete Sampras made the semifinals of the IBM/ ATP Tour World Cham-

pionship Friday, joining Becker, Andre Agassi and Sergi Bruguera in the last

Sampras did his part by beating Goran Ivanisevic but his fate hung in balance until Becker completed a tough three-set victory over Stefan Edberg.

Because of the round-robin format, top-ranked Sampras would have been eliminated if Edberg had beaten Becker: "Before the match, he

came into my locker room and wished me good luck," Becker said. "I knew that if I lost he'd be out." Becker needed plenty of

luck and some very good tennis to prevail over Edberg, who is now No. 8 in the world but showed flashes of the brilliance that had once made him No. 1. By coming from behind to

beat Edberg 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 7-5, the German won his group with a 3-0 record. Samoras beat Ivanisevic 6-3. 6-4 earlier and finished 2-1, while Edberg (1-2) and Ivanisevic (0-3) were eliminated.

Ivanisevic, a semifinalist here the last two years, not only failed to win a match this year, but faces a two-month suspension and a \$10,000 fine after an outburst in the

second set. In the last round-robin match. No. 2 Agassi beat Bruguera 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 to win his group and will play Sampras in the first of the semifinals. Becker will face Bruguera. No. 3, both Agassi and Bruguera had already advanced Thursday.

"I knew I had to win only a set to be in the semis, but I wanted to be first in group, said Becker, a three-time Wimbledon champion who won here in 1992 and is No. 5 in the world.

A passing shot by Becker clinched the game and he served out the match in the next, to thunderous applause from 9,000 fans in the Festh-

Sampras, champion in

1991, scored the only two breaks in the match and that was enough to give him victory over Ivanisevic, whom he also beat in the Wimble-

don final. In a match that lasted one hour three minutes and saw few rallies longer than a couple of shots, the American broke for a 4-2 lead when Ivanisevic double-faulted.

"I could tell from the first couple of games he wasn't serving like he normally does," Sampras said. "And I played one of my better matches this fall."

Ivanisevic, No. 4 in the world, could become the first player to be suspended since the tour's inception in 1990. Spokesman Peter Alfano said Ivanisevic had exceeded

second straight year, which according to ATP rules carries a two month suspension. Alfano declined to say how much exactly in fines Ivanisevic had accumulated this year or how much he would be fined for Friday's out-

\$10,000 in fines for the

He was called for verbal abuse, which carries a fine of up to \$5.000.

Ivanisevic now has three weeks to appeal, or risks being hanned from the tour for two months and fined \$10,000. The ban would extend into the Australian Open, but Alfano said Grand Slam tournaments were not obliged to follow the ATP suspension policy.

"I deserved the warning because I said a couple of bad things." Ivanisevic said, but complained that he should not have been penalised because the lineswoman did not understand what he said.

He conceded, however, that they were not nice words, he said.

The \$3 million tournament is limited to the eight topranked players under a twogroup round-robin format. The top two finishers from each group advanced to the

career-high 25 points for

Portland, which played with-

out starting guards Rod Strickland and Clyde Drexler

because of injuries. Strick-

Robinson lead Bucks: Celtics defeat Miami

Mayberry sank an offbalance jumper with 28 In Orlando, Nick Anderseconds left in overtime to lift the young Bucks of Milwanker to a 97-93 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Rookie Glenn "big dog" Robinson, the top pick overall in last year's draft, made his first start a memorable one by scoring 26 points for Milwaukee (4-2), who overcame a 12-point third-quarter deficit and limited Atlanta to

two points in overtime. The Bucks, who had lost eight in a row to Atlanta, did not win their fourth game last

season until December 10. "This is obviously a great confidence builder for my team," Bucks coach Mike Dunleavy said. "I didn't real-Over 196 hart in Bangladesh socce 1780 by know what to expect from Glenn in his first start. I just

Figure 10 days with 4:30 left gave milwankee ing water land a 93-91 lead. Steve Smith made two free throws to tie it with 2:08 left and the teams injured in an hour the supporters of the supporters and the supporters of the supporter of the supporters of the supporter of the supporters of the supporter of the supporters of the supporters of the supporters

Change print "We're just not there yet" Muhammadan kens, who needs 11 victories to move past Red Auerbach into first place on the all-time

> Todd Day had 21 points and Vin Baker added 18 and 15 rebounds for Milwaukee, Grand Long had 27 points for Atlanta.

In Philadelphia, big Shawn Bradley set career highs with 28 points and 22 rebounds as the Philadelphia 76ers kept the Los Angeles Clippers winless 97-83.

The Clippers, the only winless team in the NBA, fell to 0-8 in their worst start in club

Bradley, who also tied a coreer-high with nine blocks, accred 10 points in the first quarter as the Sixers jumper Out to a 34-12 lead on their

May to their third win in nine Clarence Weatherspoon dded 18 points for Phiadelphia, while Dana Barros chipped in with 14. Loy Vaught had 14 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Clip-

son scored 25 points and Shaquille O'neal added 22, leading the Orlando Magic to their third straight victory 113-103 over the News Jersey

The Nets failed in their bid for a third win in a row and bounds for Seattle, limited to just 38 percent field goal minded Pacers.

land Trail Blazers.

season.

The game was close throughout, but the Magic closed the game out with a 17-7 run in the final six minutes of the game. With the game tied, 96-96. Anfernce .Hardway sank a layup with 5:50 left to give Orlando the

Anderson had a pair of three-pointers during the game-icing run. Derrick Col-

scored 22 points, including a key three-pointer with 47 seconds left, to lift the Boston Celtics past the Miami Heat 115-111.

Dominique Wilkins led the Celtics with 24 points. Dino Radja also had 22 points for Boston, winners of three of four after opening the season with three straight losses.

They were doubleteaming Dominique, so we got a lot of clear looks." Celtics coach Chris Ford said. "It's good to have a player so great they have to doubleteam him.

Glen Rice scored 34 points to pace the Heat (1-66).

Miller set the tone early in the game, pouring in 10 points in the first quarter.

last season until January 11. to lead the Sonics and Detlef Schrempf, a former Pacer, shooting by the defensive In Phoenix, Danny Manning scored 26 points and

Dan Majerie added 24 as the Suns won their fourth straight game with a 124-111 victory over the undermanned Port-

The Suns, the improved to

4-0 at home and 6-2 overall,

also got 20 points from Kevin

Johnson, who had missed the

last four games with a groin

NBA ROUNDUP

are now 0-5 on the road this had 18 points and 11 re-

lead for good 98-96.

eman led the Nets with 22 In Miami, Dee Brown

In Indiana, Reggie Miller knocked in four-of-nine three pointers to help extend the Seattle Supersonics' skid to three defeats in a row as the Pacers posted a 94-87 win.

The sliding Sonics are now 3-4 for the season. They did not lose their fourth game

Gary Payton had 21 points

land is nursing a sprained right wrist, while Drexler is suffering from a sprained

right ankle. At Utah, Karl Malone scored eight points and Antoine Carr added six during a 25-11 burst in the second quarter that powered

the Jazz to a 121-96 victory over the Detroit Pistons. Jeff Hornacek scored 21 points for Utah, which had six players in double figures,

as they continued their mastery of the Pistons with their ninth successive win against James Robinson scored a Detroit.

Turkey's Mutlu wins seven golds

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish and Chinese lifters set eight world records Friday, on the first day of the World Weightlifting Cham-

pionships.
Turkey's Halil Mutlu bagged seven golds, starting with two world records in the men's 54 kilogrammes snatch event, competing against Bulgarian Sevdalin Minchev the previous world record holder with 125 kgs. Mutlu successfully snatched 127.5 kgs to put this event out of Minchev's reach.

An enthusiastic ovation by his cheering Turkish fans gave him the impetus to break his own two-minute-old record by snatching 130-

Mutlu then came out for the clean and jerk event to break the world record for a combined total of 277.5 kgs held by another Bulgarian rival, Ivan Ivanov, by jerking 152.5 kgs for a combined total of 202.5 kgs.

The fans' excitement at the 10,000-seat Abdi Ipekci Sport Palace reached its peak when the Turkish lifter broke world - records - twice - in - hissecond and third attempts in the clean and jerk with 156 kgs (348 pounds) and 160 kgs (352 pounds).

The previous clean and jerk record was 157.5 kgs held by nine different athletes. Mutlu's final two lifts also broke his own combined total record each time giving him a final total of 290

Pandemonium broke out and the crowd went wild. "I was expecting this accomplishment, I am very

happy," Mutlo said after the event. "At first I was excited, but when I overcame it, concentrated and won'... my aim is to win the championship at the Atlanta Olympics. I know I will do it," he added.

"I was very amazed at Halil Mutlu's records," said Ivanov. "our biggest return competition will be at the

Atlanta Olympics."
Earlier Friday, in the women's 46 kg category. China's Yanhong Yun broke the women's world record in the snatch event with a lift of 80.5 kgs. Over Guan Hong, also of China, who had held the world record with 80 kgs.

Lifters from 65 countries. including 269 men and 120 women were competing in the 10-day event.

The competitors will include Naim Suleymanoglu. who defected from Bulgaria in 1986 by which time he already was a two-time world

champion. Suleymanoglu is known as the "pocket Hercules" because he stands 1.52 metres tall, yet can lift three times his body weight. He will lift in the featherweight (64 kg)

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Windat, Faisali clash in Jordan Cup quarterfinals

By Aleen Bannavan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Competition in the Jordan Cup has been narrowed down to first division teams who advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Kingdom's second most important soccer competi-tion after eliminating lowly second division teams in matches held Thursday and Friday.

The quarterfinal round kicks off Sunday when Al Hussein meet Al Jazireh, and Al Wihdat clash with Al Faisali in Group 1, while Group 2 matches will be held Monday when Al Ramtha play Al Ahli and Al Arabi meet Kufrsoum. The winners of these matches will play a two-leg semifinal round to determine the top teams that will advance to the final match.

Twenty eight teams representing first and second division clubs had taken part in the knockout competition which kicked off

The eight quarterfinalists easily advanced, except for Al Windat who were held to a 1-1 draw with lowly Fuheis before winning the match 4-3 on penalties.

Titleholders Al Faisali had a first round bye and advanced after eliminating

Al Yarmouk 2-0. Al Hussein, who are eager to add the Jordan Cups to their Federation Shield tield, overcame Al Russeifa 2-0. Al Russeifa were recently promoted and will play in the first division next year alongside other newcomers Sahab, Jalil and Al Baqaa.

The highest score in the round of 16 was Al Arabi's win over Al Jeel. Al Jazireh, a top five team in the first division this year, scored another impressive result when they eliminated Al Qadissieh 3-0.

Al Ramtha could only manage a 2-1 win over Ein Karem, while Al Ahli hammered Shabab Al Hussein with a 4-1 win. Kufrsoum advanced after eliminating Sahab 1-0.

Only five teams have won the title since the competition was initiated in 1980: Al Faisali have clinched the title seven times, Al Wihdat three times, Al Ramtha twice, and Al Jazireh and Al Arabi once

Al Faisali are aiming to win their record eighth Jor-dan Cup title. This year

they have only won the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup. In 1993, Al Faisali clinched

the first division, the Jor-

dan Cup and the Cup Win-

ner's Cup, and in 1992 they won the Jordan Cup, the Shield and the first divi-Al Wihdat, who now top the first division standings, have had impressive results and hope to win at least one of the season's competitions. Their last major

title was the Cup Winner,'s Cup in 1992. Al Hussein who had not captured a title for years, won their first ever major title this year when they defeated Al Faisali to win the 1994 Federation Shield. Their only other best achievement was finishing

in 1990 and 1992. Al Ramtha won the Jordan Cup in 1990 and 1991 and last won the Federation Shield in 1993.

second in the first division

The next big contender seems to be Al Jazireh, the surprise team of the season. Al Jazireh, a team often threatened by relegation, has scored more wins halfway through the season than the total they scored throughout 1993.

Jones claims IBF super middleweight

LAS VEGAS (R) — Roy Jones laid claim to being the finest fighter pound-for-pound in the world Friday by completely dominating previously unbeaten James Toney to capture the International Boxing Federation super middleweight title by unanimous decision.

The 25-year-old Jones took his place among the elite of boxing as he punched his way to a lopsided 12-round decision by scores of 119-108, 118-109 and 117-110.

Toney, a 7-5 favourite with Las Vegas oddsmakers, was unable to sovie Jones' superior speed and Jones connected repeatedly with left hooks to the body and head.

Jones, the former IBF mid-

dleweight champion who now has a record of 27-0 with 23 knockouts, crushed Toney with an awesome display of Using his amazingly fast

hands to throw powerful punches from unorthodox angles, Jones thoroughly outclassed Toney, who had used his impressive package of experience, technique and power to amass a record of 44-0-2 com-

ing in.
"I knew my speed would

be too much," Jones said. "He's a puncher, and you don't let him set his feet." Toney said simply: "The

"It was the toughest fight I'll ever have." Toney added. Toney did not land any telling blows against Jones and as the fight progressed found it more and more difficult to block or duck Jones's

better man won.

Jones jarred the former champion several times. Toney was knocked down once, early in the third

Jones, taunting Toney, dropped his hands to his sides and leaned forward. Toney did the same and Jones responded by landing a looping left the head. Toney staggered backwards to a neutral corner, squatted and wrapped his arms around the low-

Although no part of his body touched the floor, referee Richard Steele ruled that only the ropes supported Toney and prevented him from going down and, therefore, called it a knockdown. At the end of the bout, there was puffiness around

both of Toney's eyes.

Grobbelaar to face the music

SOUTHAMPTON (AFP) -Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, will play in the game against Arsenal even though he knows he will be taunted by rival fans about the allegations that he took bribes to fix matches.

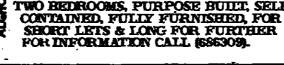
Lawrie McMenemy, Southampton's director of football, said here Friday that the Zimbabwean goalkeeper wanted to take the field for fear that people might infer guilt from his absence.

He faces two probes into the match-rigging claims one is being conducted by the Football Association, and the other by detectives from Hampshire police, who have been examining material, including video tapes, handed to them by The Sun newspap-

As Grobbelaar trained with his team mates, McMenemy admitted he might get "some stick" from the Arsenal fans, but said:

"He's had that all his career. They might be chanting different things, but they will have 1,500 and we will have 13.500.

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Akram Abul Ragheb

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King inaugurates new building of **Interior Ministry**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday inaugurated the Interior Ministry's new premises near the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

D! siz Aı cr oi

ga O E S:

Accompanied by a number of Cabinet members, Parliament deputies and senior officials, the King listened to a briefing by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad about the different sections' operations

The King presented Ghassan Al Asmar, a representative of the contracting company that carried out the project, with the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Third Order.

Mr. Hammad presented King Hussein with a golden replica of the Dome of the Rock and delivered an address paying tribute to the Hashemite leadership for sponsoring the occasion and pledging that the ministry's departments would exert their utmost efforts to serve Jordan and the Jordanian people.

Minister of Public Works Abdul Razzak Ensour delivered another address, noting that the inauguration ceremony coincides with the Kingdom's celebrations of the King's birthday.

He paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts for his services to the nation.





NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghans plucked from rafts in freezing Baltic

STOCKHOLM (R) — Some 36 refugees, most of them from Afghanistan, were plucked from liferafts in the Baltic Sea off Sweden on Saturday, police said. Police said all 36, including a one-year-old baby, had been adrift for up to 10 hours after being dropped off a ship that had presumably smuggled them from Russia or one of the Baltic states. Rescuing refugees from the waters off Sweden has become a common occurrence. Most refugees are from the Middle East or Asia and have paid huge amounts of money to be smuggled through Russia and into a Western country. Henric Jacobsen, an emergency services doctor at Trelleborg, southern Sweden, near where the refugees were picked up from three life rafts, said all 36 were in good health, although some were suffering from slight hypothermia and seasickness. Temperatures in the Baltic Sea are around freezing at the moment. All the refugees were wearing light clothing that was not suited for the Scandinavian winter, Dr. Jacobsen added. The refugees had so far refused to give the name of the ship that had brought them to the Swedish coast. Ship's captains can earn large amounts of money by smuggling human cargo into Sweden.

Two dead in attacks in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Suspected Muslim militants stormed a mosque near the southern Egyptian town of Mallawi on Saturday, killing a government employee and injuring one other man, the interior ministry said in a statement. It said three gunmen broke into Zawiyya mosque in Tanda, once run by sympathisers of the militant Al Gama'a Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) but recently taken over by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. They opened fire, killing mosque keeper Farrag Taha and injuring Attiyah Ali Attiyah before fleeing, the statement said. In a separate in ident, the ministry said, police killed a Muslim militant early on Saturday after ambushing him on one of the roads leading out of Mallawi. It said Abdul Hamid Mahmoud Gad Al Karim opened fire on police after being stopped and was killed in the exchange of fire.

Polish prime minister visits UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) - Polish Prime Minister Naldemar Pawlak arrived Saturday with a high-level official and business delegation and hopes of clinching bilateral deals with the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mr. Pawlak, making the first visit to the Gulf Arab countires by a Polish leader, is treating the visit as a very important one; according to an official at the Polish embassy here. "There will be high-level talks with local officials and businessmen in the UAE and we hope that trade ties will be strengthened by his visit," the official told the Associated Press. Mr. Pawlak's 90-member delegation includes four ministers and will discuss both investment and trade during its three-day visit to one of the prominent members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

London fears Pan Am movie — Libyan paper

3

TRIPOLI (AFP) — The British government fears that a recent movie on the Lockerbie bombing would invalidate its accusations against Libya, the official newspaper Al Shams said here Saturday. It was referring to "The Maltese Double Cross," a film challenging British and U.S. insistence that Libya alone was behind the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people. The film suggests that Syria is behind it. "The Maltese Double Cross has filled with terror the hearts of those who want to maintain ignorance," the newspaper said, charging the U.S. and British governments with "propagating lies and falsifying the truth." The movie, a documentary allegedly made with the help of Libyan money, was withdrawn from the London Film Fetival after legal advice, but shown in the House of Commons Wednesday. British relatives of Lockerbie victims who screened it have called for an inquiry into the conduct of intelligence agencies that investigated the attack. They said the movie contained evidence that the flight may have been used to carry drugs for a U.S.-backed international operation, and suggested that some people in U.S. intelligence were aware that this left a loophole for terrorists to get a bomb on board.

Russian premier leaves for Gulf

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrrdin left here on Saturday for Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a six-day swing of Gulf states, expected to be dominated by economic affairs, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. His delegation included the deputy prime minister in charge of external economic relations, Oleg Davydov, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, the chairman of the state committee for the military industry, Viktor Glukhikh, Energy Minister Viktor Shafranik and the deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle East affairs, Viktor Posuvalyuk. After Riyadh, the delegation will go on to Kuwait on Sunday, to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday and to Oman on Thursday. Mr. Chernomydrin is expected to sign trade and economic cooperation agreements with all the countries on his tour. Moscow also wants to strengthen its military cooperation with the Gulf countries in the light of a defence agreement signed with Kuwait a year ago.

Sudan airways flight catches fire before take-off

CAIRO (R) - A Sudan Airways plane with 115 people on board caught fire seconds before take-off from Cairo on Friday night but no one was hurt, airport sources said. They said flames shot out from the right wheels of the Boeing 737 airliners as it sped down the runway. Its undercarriage gave way and its right wing and engine were dragged along the ground for 100 metres. The plane was taking off at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT) on a scheduled flight to Khartoum with 100 passengers and 15 crew, they said. Emergency services put out the fire and no one was hurt.

Geagea goes on trial on blast, murder charges

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Former Christian warlord Samir Geagea drew tumultuous acclaim as he went on trial Saturday, facing a possible death penalty if convicted of bombing a church or killing a political rival.

Some 1,000 black-bereted army commandos ringed the five-storey courthouse as Mr. Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia in the late stages of the 1975-1990 civil war, was brought in from prison.

The slim, balding chieftain, whose name once spelled ter-ror across the Christian heartland, was greeted with thunderous applause at the packed courtroom. He wore blue jeans and a black leather jacket over a white sweater.

Chants of "Hakim, Hakim," Arabic for doctor, Mr. Geagea's nickname from his medicine school years, rang out for more than a minute from the 600-strong andience. Mr. Geagea, smiling, acknowledged the cheers by waving his right arms and

then sat in the dock. Some 200 supporters from Geagea's hometown in Besharri, northern Lebanon, the courthouse, but dispersed peacefully after troops fired in the air.

Another group following the court proceedings through loudspeakers from an adjacent room cheered and clapped until the presiding judge threatened to throw

them out of the building. "This is a court of law, not a circus," Chief Justice Philip

Kheirallah snapped. The trial has been billed by the Lebanese news media as the most important in Lebanon since it gained independence from France in 1943.

"I am confident he will be acquitted," Mr. Geagea's wife Strida Touk told the Associated Press. "He looks pale and has lost a bit of weight in jail but he is gener-ally well and his morale is sky

high."
Mr. Geagea's father, Farid, 65, and his mother Mary, 58, sat sobbing at Stri-

Journalists and spectators wee thoroughly frisked by troops before they were allowed into the courtroom. Cameras, tape recorders and anything the army deemed could be booby-trapped was banned.

Some 110 defence lawyers headed by a former central bank governor, Edmond Neim, were checked by metal detectors. They had threatened to block the trial if any of them was body-

After the 2,000-page indictments were read out, the five-man tribunal adjourned the church bombing trial to Friday and that of Christian politician Dany Chamoun's murder to Dec. 2.

Mr. Geagea, 43, is accused of masterminding the church blast in the Christianpopulated port city of Jounieh Feb. 27, 1994. Eleven worshippers were killed and 60 wounded.

ing the help of Israel's Shin Beth secret service to plant the bomb at the Notre Dame de la Delivrance Maronite Catholic church.

The indictment said Mr. Geagea, who maintained close ties with Israel during the civil war, sought to reignite the conflict and proclaim a breakaway Christian mini-

Mr. Geagea also is accused of engineering the murder of Chamoun 56, his half-German wife Ingrid Abdul Noor, and their two sons, Tarek, 7, and Julien, 5, by gunmen who broke into their house in an east Beirut sub-

urb at dawn on Oct. 21, 1990. Chamoun headed the right-wing National Liberal

with the incident, expressing (Continued from page 1) apologies and offering condolences and aid to the victim's

Beilinson hospital. Officials at Gaza's Ahli hospital said soldiers firing plastic bullets fatally wounded Yasser Al Zayyan, 17, in the chest on Saturiday when demonstrators stormed an Israeli checkpoint for the

Witnesses said four Israeli soldiers were injured by a hail of stones thrown as the troops fied to a nearby Jewish

violence, Palestinians said.

karını, residents said In other major West Bank cities and towns, including Arab East Jerusalem, stores and businesses were shuttered in support of calls by Islamic groups for a day of mourning for the Gaza vic-

led in his sleep when Israeli soldiers mistakenly fired a flare at his home in the occupied West Bank, the army and relatives said.

crushed Ghazi Ahmad Qabb's head and set fire to his house in Deir Al Ghusoun village, near the West Bank town of Tulkarm. The 30year-old man's wife suffered some burns but his two children were rescued un-

A military spokeswoman said the army suspended two commanders in connection

Tulkarm, Israeli soldiers using live ammunition opened fire on demonstrators who blocked roads with burning tyres and hurled stones at them. The shooting wounded nine Palestinians, two fatally. Hospital officials said Mahmoud Luth Kahla, 19. from the village of Attil, near Tulkarm, died of his wounds

while being taken to hospital in Israel. They said Ahmad Watad, 40, an Arab citizen of Israel, later died in Tel Aviv's

second time since the fierce street battles on Friday.

settlement for safety.

Three other Palestinians were wounded during de-monstrations in the West Bank city of Hebron. The entire West Bank was shut down by a strike to mourn the casualties of the Friday

The army imposed curfews on both Hebron and Tui-

Israeli police detained 33 Palestinians in an East Jerusalem protest.

A Palestinian man was kil-Relatives said a flare

harmed.

Palestinians erupt in anger

Gaza City streets were taken over by youths. Gunfire rattled across the city in the morning, apparently shots fired in the air in gestures of defiance. Every mosque blared out recitations from the Koran in mourning for the dead.

Witnesses said over 100 youths stormed a cinema in the city on Saturday. Militants have begun to target cinemas, video shops, cafes and other places they view as anti-Islamic.

In a private meeting with Israeli Arab leader, Mr. Arafat was seething, saying his Islamic opponents had challenged his authority again and again and must be put

Grabbing a pile of anti-Arafat leaflets by Hamas, the PNA leader threw the papers on the table before him and shouted: "Read this. Hamas has been preparing for this (a showdown) for a long time. They have been waging war against me."

Despite his anger, Mr. Arafat said he was ready to resume a dialogue with Hamas about giving the group a share of power, said a Palestinian official close to the PNA chief.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi and other Palestinian officials raised the possibility that some of those killed and wounded were shot by Muslim militants, not police. They said they saw hospital X-rays showing that some of the fatal bullets were of the type not used by Palestinian

The worst rioting in Gaza Saturday occurred near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim. Some 300 Hamas supporters advanced towards an Israeli army checkpoint near the settlement and stoned soldiers who fled into Netzarim. Rioters destroyed the checkpoint, raised a Palestinian flag there and then followed troops to Netzarim where they stoned the watch-

Troops fired teargas, rubber bullets and live rounds from inside, shooting the 17year-old who later died of his wounds, Palestinian reporters said.

(Continued from page 1)

provoked the Palestinian Authority and no authority, no power wherever it is, can allow such a situation," Mr. Sarid said, citing examples of "merciless wars" carried out by Arab governments such as Egypt against Islamic fundamentalists.
"Without doubt the

Hanan Ashrawi, head of fat's self-rule government.

"We are ready for this... battle, and we'll confront the self-rule authority the same way we've confronted the Zionist enemy throughout the years."

ly autonomous zone.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign minister and a memberer of its Executive Committee, also urged Palestinian police not to use firearms against rowds in Gaza and to free all detainees in their custody.

"I appeal to our Palestinian National Authority and to our policemen and our people to put an end to this tragic bloodshed in order to maintain our national unity, Mr. Kaddoumi told the Associated Press.

Mr. Kaddoumi, also secretary-general of Mr. Ara-fat's Fatch PLO faction, has spoken out against Israel-PLO accord that led to autonomy for Gaza and Jericho. But he has not actively opposed the accord.

He was in Cairo for discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on coordination in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Kad-doumi described Friday's violence as "sedition aimed at sabotaging the Palestinians' unity and their heroic strug-

After meeting with Mr. Musa, Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO was seeking Egypt's support in "advancing the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian are able to set up their independent state." He did not elaborate.

2 Chinese dissidents get **Kennedy Prize**

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two key Chinese dissidents jailed for human rights and pro-democracy activities. Wei Jingsheng and Ren Wanding, were awarded the Robert Kennedy Human Robert Kennedy Human Rights Prize here Friday. "The Chinese government seems to fear most those principled activists like Ren and Wei who refuse to be silenced," said Rose Styron, chair of the sward program. chair of the award programme's judges. The award, including a \$30,000 prize, was presented by the late Kennedy's widow at a U.S. Senate office building here and was accepted on behalf of the two dissidents by Liu Qing, a former dissident and friend of Mr. Wei and Mr. Ren. Mr. Wei, formerly an electrician at the Beijing Zoo, first came to world attention during the 1978-1979 Democracy Wall movement in China when he wrote essays critical of the Chinese leadership. He was briefly freed from prison in September 1993 after serving more than 14 years in solitary. confinement as Beijing was waging an international campaign to host the 2000 Olympics. Mr. Wei was detained again on April 1 this year and has been held incommunicado and without charge since, his whereabouts unknown. Mr. Ren was also a leading activist in the Democracy Wall movement and spoke out publicly on Tiananmen Square during the 1989 prodemocracy movement. As a result, he was arrested, charged with incitement and counterrevolutionary propaganda and is currently serving a seven-year prison term in Beijing No. 2 Prison, according to a statement from the Kennedy Memorial.

Auction of emperor's personal effects nets \$2m

VIENNA (AFP) - An auc-

tion of 300 personal effects from the Austrian imperial

household raised some \$2 million this week in Vienna. as collectors rushed to snap up anything from Emperor Franz Josef I's underwear to his razor blade. The five-day selloff of some 300 lots brought in almost 20 million schillings as predominantly Austrian enthusiasts fought to grab a memento of the emperor, who died in 1916. The imperial undies went for 10,000 schillings (\$1,000), while several of his uniforms fetched up to 10 times as much. Riding breeches were a snip at just 30,000 schillings (\$3,000). Franz Josef's woollen "Bonjourl" shirt, which helped to ward off coids at Schoenbrunn Palace, went for a mere 154,000 schillings, while his spectacles and razor blade brought in a further 30,000 schillings. Handkerchiefs and a hat belonging to Empress Elisabeth ("Sissi") also found a buyer at around 30,000 schillings a piece, as did the boots of Marie Vetsera, mistress of Prince Rodolphe. He and Marie committed suicide in the hunting pavilion at Mayerling. Hunting scenes and war paintings showing the emper-or and painted by Austrian artists of the day went for more than 150,000 schillings while an assortment of letters were also snapped up. Some of the missives included correspondance between Franz Josef and Katharina Von Kiss-Schratt, an actress with whom he reputedly had a relationship. The artefacts had been brought together by a private Viennese businessman who had spent a lifetime collecting them.

Baby's body sent by post

CARDIFF (AFP) — Health Department officials launched an inquiry after a newborn baby's body was sent more than 200 miles (320 kilometres) in a cardboard box for a post-mortem, a spokesman said. A stores worker discovered the body in the parcel delivered by a courier when the bottom of the small box broke open, newspapers reported Saturday. A health authority spokesman said an inquiry had been launched, and the baby's parents were receiving counselling after being told of the error. He said the baby should have been transported. either by ambulance or by funeral director — at a cost of several hundred pounds.

Jordan urges Palestinians to unite

(Continued from page 1)

Organisation (PLO) has got to demonstrate that it can live up to its responsibilities," said Mr. Johnson.

The United States is working with ether countries to organise a meeting of donors for Nov. 29 and 30 in Brussels, he said.

Egypt said international aid to the Palestinians must be released immediately to ward off the threat of civil war in the self-rule areas.

"The necessary funds for the development of Gaza and Jericho must be unblocked immediately because the current situation is increasing the feeling of frustration which sparked (Friday's) clashes" in the Gaza Strip. Foreign Minister Amr Musa

The minister was speaking to reporters after talks in Cairo with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department.
"The Palestinian Authority

is not entirely responsible for these incidents," Mr. Musa "The speedy granting of funds and the full and exact implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord are two basic condi-

Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Syria condemned the Palestinian self-rule authority for the violence and said the "massacre" was planned by

tions" for stability in the

Israel. Syria has been highly critic-

al of the PLO for making separate peace with Israel. Its official daily said Friday's killings showed that the deal brought more suffering for

the Palestinian people.
"The massacre which was committed by the Gaza police yesterday was not the result of a casual incident. but came as a result of longterm Israeli planning," the official daily Tishreen said in a front-page editorial.

Italy's foreign minister, reiterating Italy's commitment for better training of Palestinian police, on Saturday urged Western nations to help Palestinian autonomy

"What happened yesterday in Gaza worries us a lot and underlines the necessity to do something immediately so that this experiment in Palestinian autonomy succeeds also from the economic point of view, and thus we must all act so that this happens," said Foreign Minister

Antonio Martino. Mr. Martino urged greatern Western presence in he Palestinian area, the AGI

news agency reported.

Iran said the bloodshed in Gaza was an "abominable carnage" committed by Palestinian police that will provoke the downfall of PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

mistake by Arafat which will lead to his political downfall," state radio said.
"This dreadful crime by the police and Palestinian au-

thority could widen further

The clashes were "a fatal

the rift in Palestinian society," Tehran Radio said.
"Yasser Arafat is killing the very people whose resistance and political struggle allowed him to become head of the Palestinian Author-

Party, long at odds with Mr. Geagea's Lebanese Forces,

which ruled most of the

Christian hinterland north

and northeast of Beirut dur-

ing the civil war. Mr. Geagea and Chamoun

were gunning for presidency,

which traditionally is held by

a member of their one

million-strong Maronite

Catholic sect, the country's

largest Christian community.

ment charges Mr. Geagea with "plotting and executing a bomb explosion that caused

fatalities with the aim of

creating chaos and anarchy"

in connection with the church

attack and first-degree mur-der for the Chamoun killings.

Mr. Geagea remained si-

lent during the 71/2-hour ses-

sion, but he had denied the

charges upon his arrest April

21, a month after his militia

was outlawed by Prime

Minister Rafik Hariri's gov-

counts," he has said, "The

government is bent on stifling

opposition and for this it is

ready to even accuse me of

Mr. Geagea was the only

join the post-war govern-ment. His foes all hold

cabinet posts and thus their

trespasses have been for-

Geagea were four aides, in-

cluding his chief of staff Fuad

Malek. Fourteen others, in-

cluding his top security chief

Ghassan Touma, are being

tried on the same charges in

Lebanon restored the

death penalty for political crimes in March after the

church bombing amid efforts

to tigthen security and legal

Present in the courtroom

were Tracy Chamoun, the

assassinated leader's eldest

Standing trial with Mr.

crucifying Jesus."

"I am innocent on both

ernment.

absentia.

procedures.

daughter.

In formal terms, the indict-

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon's larest camp burned tyres in mourning for the victims of the Gaza clashes and urged Islamic militants to "kill" Mr. Ara-

"Arafat is the cancer of the Palestinian people," said Amer Al Khatib, who lives in the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp just outside the port of Sidon. "We call on the Islamic

Jihad and (Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas and all the national Palestinian forces to kill Arafat as soon as possible. The blood of our martyrs cannot be spilled cheaply," Mr. Khatib added. He was among hundreds of people who burned tyres sea-

ling off the entrances to 'Ain Al Hilweh and who raised black flags on rooftops across the sprawling camp, home to 80,000 Palestinians. Schools and shops closed in response to a call by Palestinian forces and Islamic mili-

tants in the camp, including

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

to observe a day of mourning The Damascus-based Fateh-Uprising movement, a breakaway faction from Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh group, bitterly denounced Friday's killings and vowed to continue its struggle against

the peace accord.

PNA rejects Israeli offer

the minister added.
"They have ceaselessly

Palestinian Authority has come to the conclusion that it had no other choice but to face up" to fundamentalists.

the Palestinian Association of Human Rights, told Israeli Television that she feared the Jewish state would "use (this incident) for political ends." In Amman, Hamas spokes-man Ibrahim Ghosheh vowed to retaliate against Mr. Ara-

In Cairo, a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official urged Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority and Islamic militants to show self-restraint and avoid further bloodshed in the new-